A

COLLECTION

OF

PAMPHLETS

CONCERNING THE

POOR:

WITH

ABSTRACTS OF THE POOR'S RATES;

EXPENCES OF DIFFERENT HOUSES OF INDUSTRY, &c.

AND

OBSERVATIONS BY THE EDITOR.

189622

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE republication of the following Pamphlets, by that truly benevolent man THOMAS FIRMIN, the friend of Archbiſhop Tillotſon, on the ſubject of the Poor, may perhaps prove acceptable to the public, now that their attention is again called on by a reviſal of the Poor's laws.

The Editor has taken the liberty of adding ſome other pamphlets on the ſame ſubject, and of offering ſome reflections on the Poor's rates; an abſtract of which is given from the Returns of the Overſeers to the Houſe of Commons in 1776; and likewiſe an Account of the Expences per Head of the ſeveral diſburſements of the Houſes of Induſtry, &c. taken from the Report of the Committee of the Houſe of Commons, appointed to make inquiries concerning the management of the Poor.

If the peruſal of theſe Pamphlets ſhould call forth the abilities of ſome benevolent man, by ſuggeſting to him ſome plan to ſtop the alarming increaſe of the rates, which muſt ever have the moſt pernicious effects on all ranks of ſociety, the Editor will think that his time and labour have been well beſtowed.

He cannot have the preſumption to imagine, that any thing he can ſay can add to the weight of the arguments already laid before the public by the Rev. Dr M'Farlan in his ingenious and judicious Inquiries concerning the Poor: the Tables ſurely tend to prove the juſtneſs of the Doctor's remarks.

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SOME

SOME

PROPOSALS

FOR THE EMPLOYING OF THE

POOR,

Eſpecially in and about the City of LONDON:

And for the Prevention of BEGGING; a Practice ſo Diſhonourable to the Nation, and to the Chriſtian Religion.

In a LETTER to a FRIEND, by T. FIRMIN.

For even when we were with you, this we commanded, that if any would not work, neither ſhould they eat. 2 Theſſ. iii. 10.

Let him that ſtole ſteal no more, but rather let him labour, working with his hands, the thing that is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Eph. iv. 28.

(LONDON, originally printed by J. GROVER, and ſold by Francis Smith, at the Elephant and Caſtle; and Brab. Aylmer, at the Three Pigeons in Cornhill. 1678.)

SIR,

HAVING found many poor people to whom I diſtributed the charity of ſeveral worthy perſons, either to have no employment at all, or at leaſt none that was certain and conſtant, by means whereof they were reduced to great neceſſity; I got a friend to buy flax ready dreſt, and deliver it to ſuch poor people as either could ſpin, or were willing to learn: now of theſe in a ſhort time he had ſo many that did conſtantly (or at ſuch times when they had no other or better employment) fall upon this work, that it became one man's buſineſs to attend it; which my friend not being able to do, I reſolved to build a houſe fit for the laying up hemp and flax, and convenient for the dreſſing them; by which means I hoped to have them much cheaper, and to employ ſervants of my own, who ſhould manage this new trade in ſuch a way as ſhould be with the leaſt loſs and diſadvantage.

This building I ſoon erected in the pariſh of Alderſgate, to which place I directed all the poor people above-mentioned to go and receive flax, and when they had ſpun it, to carry it to the ſame place and receive their money for it, which I found to be very much for the help and relief of many poor; ſome of them being able to earn three-pence and ſome four-pence a-day, working only at ſuch times as they could ſpare from their other ne-

ceſſary occaſions; who being to work in their own houſes, and when they could with moſt convenience attend it, many of them became ſo much pleaſed with it, that ſo much money given them for doing nothing would not have done them half ſo much good as that which they got by their own labour in this employment.

By which experiment I perceived, that the only way to provide for our poor, and to bring them to labour, is to provide ſuch work for them as they may do at their own homes, which though never ſo mean and homely is more deſired than any other place; and the way which ſeveral perſons have propoſed, of bringing them to a public work-houſe, will never effect the end intended: for, ſuppoſe a woman hath a ſick huſband or child, or ſome infirmity upon herſelf, in all ſuch caſes ſhe may do ſomething at home, but cannot leave her own houſe. And ſuppoſing that none of theſe ſhould happen, which yet is very frequent, not one perſon of twenty will endure the thoughts of working at a public work-houſe. True indeed, for vagrants and ſturdy-beggars who have no habitation, and muſt be held to their labour as gally-ſlaves are tied to their oars, ſuch public work-houſes are very neceſſary, and I wiſh we had more of them, and that thoſe we have were employed to this purpoſe to which they were at firſt deſigned and intended; but for ſuch poor people as have habitations of their own, and who are known in the pariſh where they live, and would take pains at home, it is altogether unreaſonable and unprofitable (in my judgment) to force them to a public work-houſe.

If any pariſh that abounds with poor people would ſet up a ſchool in the nature of a work-houſe, to teach poor children to work who wander up and down the pariſh and parts adjacent, and between begging and ſtealing get a ſorry living, but never bring any thing unto their parents nor earn one farthing towards their own maintenance, it would in a ſhort time be found very advantageous, not only to the poor children, who by this means whilſt young ſhould be inured to labour and taught to get their own living, but alſo to their parents, who ſhould hereby both be freed from any charge by keeping them, and alſo in time be helped by their labour, as it is in other places.

And further, the pariſh would by this means be freed from much charge that now they are at, either to keep theſe children or to allow their parents ſomething toward it, nothing being thought a greater argument for a large penſion than that a man or woman hath ſix or ſeven children; whereas unleſs they were all born at one time, or came faſter into the world than ordinarily ſo many children do, it is very hard if ſome of them be not able to work for themſelves. I myſelf have at this time ſome children working to me not above ſeven or eight years old, who are able to earn two-pence a-day, and ſome that are but a little older two ſhillings a-week, and I doubt not to bring any child about that age to do the like; and ſtill as they grow

up

up and become proficients even in this poor trade of ſpinning, they will be to get more and to ſpin better than older people. Neither would I have theſe ſchools confined only to ſpinning, but to take in knitting and making of lace or plain work, or any other work which the children ſhall be thought moſt fit for; and this is that which (as I am informed) is practiſed in other countries with ſo great advantage, that there are few poor children who have attained the age of ſeven or eight years that are any charge to the pariſh or burden to their poor parents: and Mr Chamberlain (in his book intitled *The preſent State of England*, p. 137.) hath obſerved, that in the city of Norwich it hath been of late years computed and found, that (yearly) children from ſix to ten years of age have gained twelve thouſand pounds more than what they have ſpent, and that chiefly by knitting fine Jerſey ſtockings.

Obj. *But againſt this of every body's carrying their work to their own houſes, it will be objected, What aſſurance can you have that thoſe poor people to whom you deliver your flax and hemp to ſpin will bring it home again? They may die, and what will become of it then? or otherwiſe they may pawn it, or run away with it?*

Anſ. To which I anſwer, that it is poſſible one of theſe things may happen, as it hath done ſometimes among thoſe whom I have employed, tho' very rarely; but to prevent all this, if the perſons be wholly unknown, let them leave ſixpence in hand, which is about the price of a pound of hemp or flax, which no poor body who is of any good behaviour but will find credit for if they have it not of their own, and let this lie as a pawn till they bring home their work, or as long as you ſhall employ them or be ſatisfied of their honeſty.

Obj. *But ſome will object, That by thus ſetting of poor people to ſpin, you will take them off from other employments, as winding of ſilk, ſtitching of bodice, and ſuch like, which are more neceſſary works than ſpinning of flax or hemp to make linen cloth, we having that already very cheap from other countries, for which alſo his Majeſty receives much cuſtom, which by this new trade will be loſt.*

Anſ. To this I anſwer, That there is no fear that any perſon who can wind ſilk, ſtitch bodice, or almoſt any other work that you can name, will leave theſe if they can have them to ſpin flax, the price whereof is ſo very low; but if any of theſe ſhould fail, as many times they do, had not the poor people better ſpin than do nothing? And were it not much better his Majeſty ſhould loſe the cuſtom of cloth, than that the poor people ſhould loſe both their bodies and ſouls too in ſloth and idleneſs; the latter whereof is often the conſequence of the former. But as to the cuſtom of cloth, it is humbly conceived, that if a higher impoſt were laid upon foreign linen, it would not only be a ready way to encourage this manufacture at home, but alſo bring in as much money to his Majeſty, though there ſhall come in leſs cloth than now there doth.

Let it further be conſidered, that this employment of ſpinning flax and hemp, is ſet up and intended only for thoſe perſons that have nothing elſe to do, or who can do little elſe; of which number there are many ancient people who cannot ſee to wind ſilk, nor yet to ſtitch bodice, or work with a needle: and then as to young children, there is nothing they can more eaſily learn than to ſpin linen, their fingers though never ſo little being big enough to pull the flax and to make a fine thread. It is not above ſix months ſince I ſet a poor child to ſpinning which came a begging to my door, who now can ſpin a pound of flax to twelve-pence, which many ancient people whom I employ can very rarely do to ſeven-pence.

Obj. *But it will again be objected and queried, Where you will find a ſtock to employ ſo many poor people as ſhall want work?*

Anſ. To which I anſwer, There are very few pariſhes but are ſtocked either with money, or with ſo many good men, as would willingly lend gratis, if not give conſiderably towards the carrying on of ſo good a work as is the employing the poor; but in caſe either of theſe ſhould fail, the pariſh may as eaſily raiſe a ſtock to ſet the poor people at work, as raiſe money by a rate to keep them in idleneſs. It is very well known that ſome pariſhes about London do raiſe ſome thouſands of pounds *per annum* for the relief of their poor; and yet as the matter is handled, very few who are not through age or ſickneſs confined to their houſes, but do beg up and down the ſtreets. To prevent which I know no better way than by providing work for all ſuch as are able; and when this is done, if they will not work, nor be kept from begging, their penſions ſhould be taken away and their perſons ſecured as idle beggars in a houſe of correction, where they ſhould be made to work or forbid to eat, according as the Apoſtle St Paul adviſeth.

But further, to encourage the ſetting up of this linen-manufacture for the employment of the poor, I deſire it may be conſidered that there is no commodity that I know of, of the like value, that can be ſet up with leſs ſtock: Three parts of four even of that cloth which comes not to above two ſhillings an ell, will be paid for work to the ſpinner and weaver, and many times a poor woman will ſpin a pound of flax that coſt but ſix-pence or ſeven-pence to that fineneſs that ſhe will receive twelve-pence or fourteen-pence for her pains, which will make an ell of cloth worth three ſhillings, at which rate five parts of ſix will be paid for labour: nay, ſometimes I have ſeen a pound of flax not worth above eighteen-pence at moſt, ſpun to that fineneſs, that the pound of thread made of it hath been worth eight or ten ſhillings; and in other places I have ſeen a pound of flax not much higher in value, ſpun to that fineneſs that it hath been worth three or four pound Sterling, which is a great encouragement to the falling upon this trade and bringing young children to the employment, who in a few years may arrive to as great proficiency as in other countries; whereas

now

now for the moſt part our poor children are brought up in ſloth and idleneſs, and taught nothing in their younger years when they are moſt fit to learn what might ſerve to maintain them when they are old. And for thoſe children more eſpecially that are kept upon charity, either by the ſeveral pariſhes or in hoſpitals, nothing can be more adviſable (in my poor judgment) than that all theſe children, except ſome few that may be deſigned for more liberal employments, ſhould, together with their learning to read, be taught to work, as it is in Holland and other places, and not all their time from ſeven to fifteen years ſpent in play or poring upon a book; for by this means they get ſuch a habit of idleneſs, that many times they will never take to any labour at all; or if they be forced unto it, it is with great reluctancy: whereas, if whilſt young they were taught to work, they would fall in love with it, and when old would not depart from it.

Moreover I deſire it may be conſidered, that in this trade all ſorts of perſons, whether young or old, male or female, may find employment; if of years and able, they may beat hemp, dreſs flax, and make them ready for the ſpinſter, and when ſpun, may be employed in weaving it; and thoſe of both ſexes that are not able for theſe may be put to ſpinning: and why boys while young, as well as girls, may not take to it in England for want of other employment, as in other places, I ſee no reaſon.

Obj. *The next objection that I have met with is this, What will you do with all the yarn theſe poor people ſhall ſpin? If you weave it into cloth, the commodity is brought over ſo cheap, that you will never be able to ſell without much loſs.*

Anſ. I muſt confeſs this objection hath too much of truth in it to be wholly removed; the beſt anſwer I can make to it at preſent is this, That we had much better loſe ſomething by the labour of the poor, than loſe all by letting them live in ſloth and idleneſs: for ſuppoſe you ſhould give ſixpence for that work which is really worth but fivepence, here will fivepence really be got to the nation, though one penny ſhould be loſt to the pariſh. Yet beſides let it be conſidered, that if this perſon had not been employed, there would not leſs have been ſpent but rather more, foraſmuch as ſixpence that is got by labour, doth many times go further than twelvepence given for doing nothing; all that time people are idle they will be ſpending if they have it, and if they have it not, it is like they will be worſe employed.

All that I can further ſay to this objection is this, That it is to be hoped in time, as our people grow more ſkilful and induſtrious, we ſhall be able to ſell as cheap as our neighbours, eſpecially if we ſhall once be provided with flax and hemp of our own growth; and in the mean time it is much better to loſe ſomething in a way that will make our poor people better and ſkilful, than to ſuffer them to live in idleneſs to their utter ruin, and a greater damage to the kingdom.

Obj. *Another difficulty objected is this, Where will you find perſons that have*

ſkill

ſkill to manage this employment? or whom ſhall the pariſh truſt with it? If it be left to every body's care it will come to nothing, that being indeed for the moſt part nobody's which is every body's buſineſs; and if it be left to the care of one or two, the pariſh may be cheated.

Anſ. To this I anſwer, That it is not to be doubted but that in every pariſh ſome ſuch honeſt and faithful perſons may be found to manage this buſineſs, as would not wrong the pariſh nor embezzle one farthing of their ſtock, but account it their honour to be employed in ſo noble and generous a work, which will not only make a better proviſion for the poor, but make them better alſo.

But I anſwer further, That there needs not much ſkill to manage this affair, and that which is neceſſary will ſoon be learned. This was one of the greateſt encouragements I had to fall upon this linen-manufacture, becauſe there was ſo little difficulty in it. Every merchant will tell you where you may buy flax and hemp at the beſt hand, and it will be as eaſy to find both men and women that ſhall dreſs them, who will give an account how many pounds of every ſort each hundred weight makes, which you ſhall ſtill enter into a book made for that purpoſe; when this is done, what you deliver of any ſort to the ſpinner ſhall likewiſe be entered, and when it is brought home the price you paid for ſpinning ſhall in like manner be entered: for every three knots containing a hundred threads in a knot, about a half-yard reel, which makes juſt ſix hundred yards of yarn, I pay a penny, be the thread finer or coarſer the price is the ſame. This being done, lay every ſort by itſelf that is ſpun to a like fineneſs; then when you deliver any ſort to the weaver, enter the quantity and quality, which when he brings home in cloth you muſt weigh again, and upon the piece enter the weight of yarn and the price of ſpinning; and ſo you ſhall readily know whether you have all your flax come in in yarn, and all your yarn come in in cloth, as alſo what has been paid for ſpinning, and by this means prevent being deceived.

But now, Sir, that I may give you an account of the work-houſe in Alderſgate pariſh, which was the thing you deſired, and what firſt I chiefly intended, by which I hope there will appear a very likely way to prevent poverty for the future, and beggary for the preſent. The houſe being finiſhed, I acquainted the pariſh of St Botolphs Alderſgate, that if they had any poor people who wanted employment, and would work, I would ſupply them therewith, upon theſe conditions, viz. that they ſhould not take away their penſions from any I employed, nor give penſions to any but ſuch as would, being able, follow this or ſome other employment towards their own maintenance; by means of which, and the penſion received from the pariſh, they might be provided for without begging: for I have long obſerved, that a very great number of thoſe perſons that are found begging in the ſtreets, are ſuch as do receive ſome penſion from the pariſh where they

they live, but that being too ſmall to maintain them without work, they make up the reſt by begging; which (I conceive) might eaſily be prevented by the inhabitants of every pariſh, as it is already in that we are now ſpeaking of, there being no perſon here who hath a penſion and is able to work but is ſupplied therewith, and with theſe together are enabled to make good proviſion for themſelves, and live much more happily than before. And if at any time any of theſe perſons ſhall be found begging in the ſtreets, the pariſh hath promiſed to take away their penſions, and I have aſſured them to take away their work and leave them to provide for themſelves as well as they can, which muſt be by begging or ſtealing; but wherever they beg it ſhall not be in this pariſh, at leaſt not with any good ſucceſs: for the pariſh having called over all their poor people, and appointed work for thoſe that are able, have thought it convenient to give a badge with the three firſt letters of the pariſh's name upon it, to ſuch and only ſuch as they found uncapable of any labour; by virtue of which badge they are permitted to go into the pariſh at ſuch an hour of the day, and receive ſuch broken bread and meat as their neighbours have to give, who alſo have promiſed to give it unto theſe and to no others: for by this badge, which is made of blue and yellow bays, pinned upon their ſleeve or breaſt, they are known to the inhabitants to be thoſe very perſons whom the deputy, common-council men, and church-wardens, have judged fit to receive ſuch charity. And I know not why any body ſhould be offended that the pariſhioners ſhould invite their poor neighbours once a-day to come to their houſes, to receive ſuch bread and meat as they are willing to beſtow; neither would I have theſe poor people go under ſo diſhonourable a name as *beggars*, but to be called *invited gueſts*.

And this courſe, though at firſt ſight it may ſeem to have little in it, yet if duly conſidered, will be found of very great moment, and productive of many good effects: As,

Firſt, by this means you will in a ſhort time clear your pariſh of all thoſe idle beggars that daily infeſt it, to the great trouble of all houſekeepers, whoſe doors are ſeldom quiet from one or other of them, to the diſturbance of the whole family, it being in ſome places almoſt one body's work to give them anſwers.

Then, this will tend to the quiet of all paſſengers that go that way, who are wont to be haunted with theſe evil-ſpirits from one end of the ſtreet to the other; and if by accident they meet with any one by the way with whom they have occaſion to ſpeak, and ſhall make the leaſt halt, they muſt in their own defence give them ſomething to be gone, or elſe they will hear all they ſay, or by their begging hinder them from ſaying any thing. This is a thing ſo well known to all that live in or frequent the city, that I need not ſay more concerning it.

Now by this means of a badge, the inhabitants will know whom they re-

relieve; and when it ſhall come to be known that they have reſolved to relieve no others but their own poor neighbours, as it will in a ſhort time, the common beggar will know better how to employ his time than in viſiting ſuch places where nothing is to be got. I myſelf have taken a friend, and have gone through the chief places of this pariſh, and have not found one beggar in it; and if by accident any one ſhould come thither, as it cannot be thought that all ſhould know it preſently, thoſe very poor who wear the badge, and are appointed to take the relief aforeſaid, will ſoon hunt them out of the pariſh, or provoke the beadles to do it.

Obj. *But here it will be objected, That ſome pariſhes are ſo full of ſuch poor people that are not able to work, that the pariſhes in which they live are not able to relieve one quarter of them.*

Anſ. To this I anſwer, That there are ſeveral pariſhes and ſome wards within the city of London which have very few or no poor in them, to which I humbly propoſe, that by the allowance of the Lord Mayor, &c. it may be permitted to theſe poor pariſhes to ſend daily ſome of their poor-eſt people for relief: As for example, ſuppoſe the pariſh of Aldgate, which is very full of poor, ſhould be permitted to ſend ſuch a number of theſe into the ward of Langburn, with a badge of the pariſh by which they might be known, at ſuch an hour of the day to receive what bread and meat they ſhould have to give, and this ward deſired by the alderman, deputy, or common-council men of every precinct, to give their broken victuals only to thoſe perſons; this in a ſhort time would have the like effect in this ward as in the pariſh aforeſaid. Yet, leſt it ſhould be found troubleſome to the ward that theſe poor people ſhould be ranging about it from one end to another, it might with eaſe be ordered that every precinct ſhould have ſuch a number allotted according to its bigneſs or ſmallneſs, to receive their fragments; by which means the ward ſhould be more quiet, and the ſtreets rid of thoſe multitudes of beggars which are every day found in them, to the trouble of all people, and diſhonour of the government, as hath been ſaid.

By this ſhort account that I have given, I ſuppoſe it will appear very practicable to bring all the pariſhes in England into ſuch a method that no poor body may want work, or be permitted to beg, otherwiſe than by the allowance of the pariſh (which yet I would not have called by that term); for what is done in one pariſh may be done in every one, if the circum-ſtances are the ſame.

Obj. *But it is like ſome will yet object and ſay, This of Alderſgate is a rich pariſh, and the poor are very few in it, to what are in other pariſhes; ſo that what is related may with greater eaſe be effected here, than where the poor are more numerous.*

Anſ. To this I ſay, It is very true there are ſeveral rich men in this pa-riſh, and the poor of this pariſh, though many, are yet not ſo many as in

ſome others; yet even here there are many poor people who receive flax to ſpin, though they are not all penſioners to the pariſh, nor I hope ever will be, it being my deſign to prevent that as much as may be: but over and beſides thoſe of the pariſh, there are above 500 more out of other pariſhes in and about the city of London, ſome of which do conſtantly follow this employment, and others only when they have no better. As, ſuppoſe a poor woman that goes three days a-week to waſh or ſcoure abroad, or one that is employed in nurſe-keeping three or four months in a year, or a poor market-woman who attends three or four mornings in a week with her baſket, and all the reſt of the time theſe folks have little or nothing to do; but by means of this ſpinning are not only kept within doors, (ſome of which would otherwiſe be begging in the ſtreets), but made much more happy and cheerful, being by their own labour able to make proviſion for themſelves.

And were the rich of this pariſh fewer than they be, and the poor many more than they are, the ſame courſe might be taken, and would prove effectual to all the ends before expreſſed.

And by how much greater the number of the poor people are, by ſo much the more need to find ſome employment for them; it being much more eaſy to provide work for them, than to keep them in idleneſs. If with their penſion you find them employment, it is like that ſixpence in a week may go further and do them more good than three ſhillings; nothing being more miſchievous to the poor than to live in ſloth and idleneſs, as hath been obſerved.

But further, to encourage the ſetting up ſuch a work-houſe in every great pariſh, to which all the poor people may reſort and be ſupplied with work as they ſhall want it, I have two or three things more to ſay.

Firſt, By this means you ſhall moſt certainly make proviſion for all the honeſt poor in your pariſh, who will with great joy and thankfulneſs be employed in any thing to get a penny, idleneſs being to them the greateſt burden in the world; inſomuch that ſeveral perſons have told me, they have taken as much pleaſure in earning a penny as they have in uſing it, their minds being all that time quiet whilſt they are employed.

And had you ſeen, as I have done many a time, with what joy and ſatisfaction many poor people have brought home their work and received their money for it, you would think no charity in the world like unto it. Do not imagine that all the poor people in England are like unto thoſe vagrants you find up and down in the ſtreets: No, there are many thouſands whoſe neceſſities are very great, and yet they do what they can by their honeſt labour to help themſelves; and many times they would do more than they do but for want of employment. Several that I have now working to me do ſpin, ſome fifteen, ſome ſixteen hours, in four-and-twenty; and had much rather do it than be idle.

Here, if it were to the purpoſe, I could tell you many a ſad ſtory of the neceſſities of ſeveral poor people which I have been an eye-witneſs of, that would melt the moſt rocky heart into compaſſion; the pooreſt people many times are thoſe that come leaſt in ſight, who fare hard, and work hard to get bread. Some trades are grown ſo bad, and ſeveral commodities fallen ſo low in their price, that ſome who could with eaſe earn two ſhillings or two ſhillings and ſixpence a-day, can now hardly earn twelve-pence; by reaſon of which you have men run away from their wives and children, leaving them to the pariſh; ſometimes perſons run diſtracted, or make away with themſelves: Inſtances of all which caſes I have known too many.

To whom ſhould charity be extended rather than to ſuch poor people who are willing to take pains for their living, and yet are wholly idle many times for want of work? but by this means of ſetting up a work-houſe in every great pariſh, to which all perſons who want employment may reſort and be ſupplied, it will be much more eaſy for the laborious poor to find relief.

Secondly, By this means you will leave all idle perſons ſo much without excuſe, that they will not deſerve your pity; whatſoever their wants and neceſſities are, they muſt thank themſelves, who will not make uſe of ſuch a means as is put into their own power: for if this courſe was taken in all pariſhes to employ all that are able and want work, and to relieve ſuch as are not able to help themſelves, then when you ſee a luſty perſon begging in the ſtreets you may ſay, Go to your pariſh and work for your living. But unleſs this be done, and you are ſure this perſon may have employment, to bid him go work for his living, is no better than to ſay to a brother or ſiſter that is naked and deſtitute of daily food, Go, be warmed and filled: but you give him not thoſe things that are needful to the body.

I pray God lay it not to the charge of this city and ſuburbs, that ſo little care has been taken in this reſpect; for this is one of thoſe things to which it is chiefly owing that our priſons are ſo full of felons and debtors; of which it is thought no age has produced more than of late. For though I know a man who within little more than two years, with the charity of ſome worthy perſons, hath delivered out of priſon above five hundred poor people, who lay there either for their fees or for very ſmall debts; and I have reaſon to believe that twice that number has been delivered by others: yet ſhould any one go to the Marchalſea or the priſon of White Chapel, to Ludgate or the two Compters of London, he would find them very full at this time.

It was hoped the city of London would have provided a ſtock, and appointed a place to which poor perſons might have brought their pawns, and have been ſupplied with money upon any extremity, which would have been no loſs to the city and much to the advantage of the poor; who now

are fain to go to ſuch brokers as will not lend twenty ſhillings a-week under ſix-pence, which comes to twenty-ſix ſhillings a-year; by which trade they make above two hundred and thirty pounds of one in a year's time, to the ruin of many poor people. Neither are our tally-men many of them much better, who truſt poor perſons with twenty ſhillings worth of goods, or rather with twelve or fourteen ſhillings worth inſtead of twenty ſhillings, to pay them by ſixpence a-week; wherein after they have failed for ſome time to pay, they hurry them into priſon, with great charge for arreſt and proceedings at law, which many times thrice exceeds the firſt debt; (which we hope will be in a great meaſure prevented by ſetting up a Court of Conſcience in the city of Weſtminſter and another in the Borough of Southwark, as is at preſent in the city of London); at which priſon they are ſure to lie till charity comes thither for the releaſe of poor priſoners, which they very well know will come at certain times in the year; and then if you meet with a kind jailor, or a creditor of any compaſſion, it is like you may get out your priſoner with ſome ſmall abatement, otherwiſe not: ſo that in effect moſt of thoſe monies that are carried to priſons, run either into the bailiffs or the jailors, or into the pawn-brokers or tally-mens pockets.

This I inſtance, not to hinder people from delivering perſons out of priſon (I wiſh there were many more ſo well-minded), but to provoke them to do all they can to keep them from coming thither; it being twice as great an act of charity, and much more advantageous to any perſon, to keep him from falling and breaking his head, than to take him up and give him a plaſter; ſo to keep a poor man from going to priſon, is much greater charity than to help him out: and I heartily wiſh that this ſort of charity were more in practice both here and in other countries, where they tell you of prodigious numbers that are every year brought to their hoſpitals and charitable houſes, when it is much to be feared little care is taken to prevent that poverty, miſery, and neceſſity, that falls upon them.

Thirdly, By ſetting up ſuch work-houſes as I have been ſpeaking of, by means of which the poor may reaſonably be provided for, all that have any bowels of compaſſion will find themſelves greatly eaſed in their minds, and their enjoyments of the good things of this world more ſweet and pleaſant to them, when they are not embittered with the ſad thoughts of the wants and neceſſities of their poor neighbours, who have no way to relieve themſelves but wretched begging or wicked ſtealing. Beſides, that they will be more ſecure in their goods, by how much there will be fewer perſons who ſhall have the temptation of extreme want to make them ſteal and be injurious to others in their poſſeſſions.

And laſtly, (to leave many things unſaid) all good Chriſtians who are ſerious in the profeſſion of religion, and hope of eternal life, muſt needs rejoice to have a hand in ſuch a work as this; becauſe nothing can more

confirm our hope of having our portion among thoſe to whom our Lord Jeſus will at the great Day of Accounts ſay, *Come, ye bleſſed of my Father*, &c. than this, that *we have relieved the hungry, thirſty, naked, and impriſoned*; or have been a means to preſerve thoſe that otherwiſe would have fallen into thoſe miſeries and calamities.

THUS, Sir, in compliance with your deſire, and the deſires of ſeveral others of my friends, I have conſented that this paper ſhould go abroad, hoping it will be beneficial to the public; and that when it ſhall appear how eaſy a matter it is to provide employment for the poor, and to prevent that wretched trade of begging ſo much in practice among us, not only the magiſtrates, but ſeveral other good men, will lend their aſſiſtance to the carrying on ſo good a work; which will many ways prove advantageous to the nation, eſpecially at this time.

If any one deſire a further account of the benefit that will accrue by ſetting up the linen-manufacture, there is lately printed, by a very worthy gentleman, ſome propoſals concerning this matter, which are worth the peruſing, and may be had at the Angel in Cornhill. I have nothing more to add, but that I am,

SIR,

Your humble Servant,

T. F.

P. S. IF any one deſire to ſee the cloth made by the poor people of this city, or for the encouragement of the preſent undertaking would buy any of it, they may do either at the Three Kings in Three Kings Court in Lombardſtreet, London.

SOME

SOME
PROPOSALS
FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE
POOR,

And for the Prevention of IDLENESS and the Conſequence thereof, BEGGING; a Practice ſo Diſhonourable to the Nation, and to the Chriſtian Religion.

In a LETTER to a FRIEND, by T. FIRMIN.

For even when we were with you, this we commanded, that if any would not work, neither ſhould they eat. 2 Theſſ. iii. 10.

Let him that ſtole ſteal no more, but rather let him labour, working with his hands, the thing that is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Eph. iv. 28.

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SIR,

IT is now above four years ſince I erected my work-houſe in Little Britain for the employment of the poor in the linen-manufacture; which hath proved ſo great a help, and afforded ſuch relief to many hundreds of poor families, that I never did, nor I fear ever ſhall do, an action more to my own ſatisfaction, nor to the good and benefit of the poor.

In a former Letter that I wrote upon this occaſion, I gave you ſome account of the management of the ſaid work-houſe, eſpecially with relation to the pariſh of Alderſgate; which Letter being wholly out of print, and much deſired by ſome perſons, I ſhall here inſert the chief things contained therein, with what elſe hath come into my thoughts concerning that matter: hoping that when the great benefit of ſuch an undertaking ſhall be made public, every good man will ſome way or other give encouragement to it; there being nothing ſo neceſſary for the prevention of poverty and the conſequence thereof, begging, as to provide ſome employment for our poor people, whereby to prevent idleneſs, the mother and nurſe of all miſchief, and one of thoſe ſins for which God deſtroyed Sodom with fire and brimſtone from Heaven, as the Holy Scripture informs us.

To the end therefore that poverty, together with that wicked trade of begging (which ſo many thouſands of late years have taken up to the diſ-

honour

honour of Almighty God and the great ſcandal of the government of this nation), may be prevented, I ſhall humbly propoſe a few things; which being put in practice, may with God's bleſſing prove effectual to the ends deſigned.

And the firſt is this, That every pariſh that abounds with poor people, would ſet up a ſchool in the nature of a work-houſe to teach their poor children to work in, who for want thereof now wander up and down the pariſh and parts adjacent, and between begging and ſtealing get a ſorry living, but never bring any thing to their poor parents, nor earn one farthing towards their own maintenance or good of the nation.

This in a ſhort time would be found very advantageous, not only to the poor children themſelves, who by this means whilſt young ſhould be inured to labour and taught to get their own livings, but alſo to their parents, who ſhould hereby both be freed from the charge of keeping them, and in time be helped by their labours, as it is in other places; and moreover the pariſh ſhould be freed from much charge which many times they are at to keep ſuch poor children, or at leaſt which they are neceſſitated to allow their parents towards it.

Nothing being accounted a better argument for a large penſion than that a man or woman hath ſix or ſeven ſmall children; whereas, unleſs they were all born at a time, or came faſter into the world than ordinarily ſo many children do, it is very hard if ſome of them are not able to work for themſelves. I myſelf have at this time many poor children not above five or ſix years old, that can earn two-pence a-day, and others but a little older, three-pence or four-pence by ſpinning flax, which will go very far towards the maintenance of any poor child. Not that I would have theſe ſchools confined only to ſpinning, but left at liberty to take in any other work that the children ſhall be capable of; as knitting of ſtockings, winding of ſilk, making of lace or plain-work, or the like: For it matters not ſo much what you employ theſe poor children in, as that you do employ them in ſomething to prevent an idle lazy kind of life, which if once they get the habit of they will hardly leave; but on the contrary, if you "train "up a child in the way that he ſhould go, when he is old he will not de-"part from it."

And this is the way (as I am informed) that is practiſed in Holland and other places with ſo great advantage, that there is very few children who have attained to ſeven or eight years of age, that are any charge to their parents or burdenſome to the pariſh. And Mr Chamberlain, in his book intitled *The preſent State of England*, hath obſerved, that in the city of Norwich it hath been computed of late years, and found that, yearly, children from ſix to ten years old have gained twelve thouſand pounds a-year more than they have ſpent, chiefly by knitting fine Jerſey ſtockings.

This ſchool would be of no great charge, but many ways advantageous to the pariſh. At this time I have a perſon who for five ſhillings a-week doth conſtantly teach between twenty and thirty poor children to ſpin, ſome that are little upon the ſingle wheel, and others that are bigger upon the double or two-handed wheel, [There was prefixed to the original Pamphlet a repreſentation of this wheel.] which when they are expert in, I give the children leave to carry away with them to their ſeveral places of abode, that ſo there may be room for others; and of theſe there are divers that can earn ſixpence a-day, and ſome more, allowing them two hours in a day to learn to read in, inſtead of that time which is allotted to the pooreſt of our children to play in: a cuſtom that I verily believe hath been the ruin of many thouſand poor children, and hath nothing in the world to juſtify it but an old proverb, which yet we have not fully obſerved; for inſtead of giving them all work and no play, the generality of our poor children have all play and no work, which is a thouſand times more miſchievous than the other. Not that I would have all manner of recreation and divertiſement prohibited to children, nor will it be hard to find ſome others beſides playing at puſh-pin or hide-farthing; neither of which, nor twenty others now in uſe, are anywiſe conducing to the health of their bodies, or to the improvement of their minds; but are only fit to teach them lying and wrangling, with twenty cheating tricks, which many times they retain as long as they live.

I believe there are very few perſons who have had occaſion to take one of theſe poor children for a foot-boy or otherwiſe, but can tell you the ſad effects of ſuch an idle life as they have been brought up in; the lad having from his cradle, if he had any, been permitted to play, has made it ſo natural to him, that ſend him in what haſte you will upon any errand, if he meets with a playfellow will have a touch of his old ſport, and many times for want of ſuch a one will be exerciſing his hand alone rather than forbear his old trade.

Let any man that hath occaſion either to walk or ride through the outparts of this city (where moſtly our poor people inhabit), tell but what he hath ſeen of the rudeneſs of young children who for want of better education and employment ſhall ſometimes be found by whole companies at play, where they ſhall wrangle and cheat one another, and upon the leaſt provocation ſwear and fight for a farthing; or elſe they ſhall be found whipping of horſes, by reaſon of which they ſometimes caſt their riders, to the hazard or loſs of their lives or limbs; or elſe they ſhall be throwing of dirt or ſtones into coaches, or at the glaſſes, inſomuch that I have been a hundred times greatly troubled to ſee the rudeneſs and miſbehaviour of the pooreſt ſort of children (eſpecially of late years), they having been generally

nerally ſo much neglected, that they have neither been taught their duties either towards God or man.

To me it ſeems very ſtrange, that ſuch children whoſe parents receive any penſion from the pariſh, or that are brought up at the charge of the ſeveral pariſhes or in hoſpitals, as ſoon as they come to ſix or ſeven years old, are not taught to do ſomething towards their own maintenance, which is the way in Holland, as hath been ſaid. There the children in hoſpitals, as ſoon as they come to any bigneſs, are two hours in a day, to wit, from five to ſeven in the morning, taught to read and write; but when ſeven o'clock comes they are by a bell called to breakfaſt; which when they have eaten, every one hath their ſeveral employment allotted to them for all the day after, excepting only ſuch time as they have to eat in. The boys are ſent to the ſhip-yard to pick oakum, to turn the wheel for the rope-maker, to wind quills for the weaver, or to braid nets, or the like; the girls to ſpin, to knit, to weave lace, or to work with the needle, or ſome ſuch-like employment as they are fit for: ſo that, as I am informed, a thouſand children ſhall be brought up with leſs charge in Holland than five hundred here; and I cannot apprehend what harm ſuch a Dutch trick would do us, if we had wiſdom enough to practiſe it.

If it be ſaid, that their children are not maintained ſo well, nor learnt ſo much as generally our children in hoſpitals are?

I anſwer, It is ſo much the better; for why ſhould poor children that muſt be put out to poor trades, where they muſt work hard and fare hardly, be fed with white bread or taught farther than is neceſſary for ſuch trades? Is not this to make them too big for their buſineſs, which is always for the worſe? Why, I pray, muſt a poor boy that is deſigned for a maſon, bricklayer, ſhoemaker, or the like honeſt and neceſſary trade, be taught to write as if he were deſigned for a maſter in that art, or ſo far in arithmetic as if he were deſigned for a merchant? Is it not enough that ſuch children are taught to read the Bible, and ſo much of arithmetic and writing as may fit them for ſuch trades and employments as they are intended to be put unto? And muſt children be kept from ſeven to fifteen years old to learn ſo much, when two hours in a day would be more than enough to effect it? and all the reſt of their time might be ſpent in doing ſomething or other that might help to keep them, and be by degrees inured to the work and buſineſs for which they are deſigned and intended. This in a very ſhort time, however it may ſeem hard at firſt, would be much more pleaſant to the children themſelves than ſitting eight or ten hours in a day under a ſevere ſchoolmaſter, who many times ſhall whip a poor child for not remembering or elſe for miſtaking a few words, as ſeverely as a rogue in Bridewell for picking a pocket or cutting a purſe.

I am well aware, from ſome diſcourſes that I have met with of late, that what I have ſaid in this particular will give offence to ſome whom I am

very unwilling to diſpleaſe; and that they will object the great prejudice which will be done to ſome children of good parts, if they ſhould be hindered in their learning; by the advantage of which, if their trades failed, they might be able to teach arithmetic or writing, or to keep merchants accounts.

To which I anſwer, firſt, That there is no danger that many handy-craft trades ſhould fail: As long as people are born naked, there will be need of ſhoemakers, taylors, weavers, and ſuch like; and as for thoſe that may be able to teach arithmetic, writing, &c. there neither is, nor I believe ever will be any want of ſuch perſons, even among them which received their education from their parents, and not upon charity: Nay, I dare ſay, there is ſo many of theſe at preſent, that not one half of them can be provided for in thoſe ways. Not but that if a poor lad were found of extraordinary parts, he might be permitted a more liberal education; but the number of theſe is very few, and to give it unto others is to do them and the commonwealth a great prejudice. I myſelf have known ſome perſons kept ſeven or eight years at ſchool to learn the Latin tongue, which have ſtood them in very little ſtead afterwards; being gone from ſchool they have ſoon loſt it, and thereby all the time they ſpent to gain it: whereas, if they had inſtead thereof been taught ſome uſeful art or other, they might have been the better for it as long as they lived. It is very well known, that at this time there is hardly employment for one-half of the clergymen that are in England; yea, ſome will tell you that there are not above ten thouſand livings in England, and that there are above thirty thouſand men in orders to ſupply them. I am not bound to make good the truth of this computation; but ſure I am that great multitudes want employment, and that if the ſmalleſt living or lecture ſhall be void there will be many competitors for it. Alſo ſome will tell you, that the number of thoſe that pretend to the law of late years are ſo much increaſed, that many of them (thanks be to God) want employment; although there are a ſort of men in the country (as I am informed) that make it their buſineſs to ſet men together by the ears, and ride from market to market upon but a very little better account: not but that I think and know there are many worthy men of that profeſſion; I heartily wiſh they were all ſuch; it is only thoſe that are guilty of encouraging ſuits and quarrels that I am offended with; and if they are offended with me for ſaying thus much I cannot now help it.

But not to forget the objection, pray let it be conſidered, before you engage perſons in a liberal education, how they ſhall be maintained in it? and before you ſend lads to Cambridge and Oxford, how they ſhall be kept there? If any man will be ſo kind to do it for a poor boy, it is very well, and I for my part have nothing to ſay againſt it; otherwiſe I am very ſure, and know it by ſad experience, that for want of ſuch ſupplies ſome have been ſent to thoſe places that had better have ſtaid away, and been

put to ſome honeſt trade by which they might have lived more comfortably themſelves and more profitably for the nation: but at the rate that ſome would order the matter, the plough, the ſea, and manufactory, which are the great concerns of England, ſhould be wholly neglected, as being too mean employments for the pooreſt of our children. He that hath a mind to ſee more of this, let him read *Britannia Languens*, pag. 100. 102, &c. and pag. 133.

But that I may, after ſo long a digreſſion, return to the buſineſs I was upon, to encourage the ſetting up of ſchools for the inſtruction of young children, and bringing them to ſome employment whereby to get their own living, the charge hereof, as hath been ſaid, would not be great, but the advantages very many; and among others this is not the leaſt, that the parents of ſuch poor children would have more time to follow their buſineſs and employments, and that with more content and ſatisfaction, when their children were not only kept out of harm's way, but were learning ſomething that would do them ſome good at preſent and more hereafter; all the trouble they ſhould have being only in the morning to dreſs them with ſuch poor rags as they had to put upon them, and to give them ſome ſmall matter for their dinner, and to fetch them home at night if they were too ſmall to go home alone: for at this ſchool I would have children taken in from three to ten years old; thoſe of the younger ſort might be taught their letters, and to read till they were able to ſpin or do ſome other work; and even then I would have two hours in a day at leaſt allotted to theſe poor children to learn ſome plain and uncontroverted catechiſm, that might teach them the principles of religion, and alſo to perfect their reading; which through the bleſſing of God might be a means to prevent much of that ignorance and wickedneſs that is found amongſt our poor people, and bring them to ſobriety and virtue: which being once done they will of their own accord naturally fall to ſome honeſt employment; without which it is impoſſible they ſhould continue good or happily enjoy themſelves.

That this is a way that would very much conduce to the happineſs of poor people and their poor children, I have found by very much experience, having at this time ſeveral poor children at my work-houſe that over and beſides their learning to read, have learnt to ſpin both upon the ſingle and double wheel, and can earn from two-pence to ſixpence a-day, as hath been ſaid; which every Saturday night I cauſe to be paid to the children to carry home to their poor parents, or elſe cauſe to be laid out for themſelves in ſuch things as they need.

But before you enter the child upon the double wheel, or ſuffer it to ſpin with both hands, you muſt teach it to ſpin well with either hand upon the ſingle wheel, which is turned with the foot as the other is; by means whereof you may teach the child to draw out the flax with either hand indifferently, and to be as nimble and quick with one hand as with the

other; otherwiſe, when it comes to ſpin upon the double wheel, which hath a quill for each hand, the threads will not be alike, but one will be more twiſted and the other leſs; it may be the one will be too much and the other too little, and ſo will not do well together. In this ſchool are taught boys as well as girls, which they take very well unto; and for want of other employment they may be kept at till they are fit to go to prentice, or to do other buſineſs, and the girls till they are fit to go to ſervice, and no longer: for it is a thing greatly complained of in the country already, that by reaſon of ſo great numbers of ſingle perſons that of late are fallen to the ſpinning trade and to live at their own hands, there is ſo great a want of ſervants, that it is very hard for the meaner ſort to get a ſupply unleſs upon much higher terms than formerly; and the like would ſoon be here, if ſingle perſons that were come to any age were encouraged to live at their own hands: for which reaſon, and ſome others, I have taken ſpecial care that no perſon that is fit to go to ſervice, or to prentice, ſhall have any of my work.

From what hath been ſaid in this particular, touching the great benefit that would ariſe to every pariſh by ſetting up ſuch a ſchool for the ends above ſpecified, I would adviſe any perſon that had a mind to ſettle any thing upon a poor pariſh, to appropriate it to ſome ſuch uſe as this, rather than to give it at large to the pariſh, to be diſpoſed of at their pleaſure; for this would be in effect rather to eaſe the rich than to help the poor, it being too well known that ſeveral pariſhes that have great incomes for their poor, have yet their poor as ill provided for as thoſe that have leſs.

If, therefore, I had 100 l. a-year to ſettle upon a poor pariſh, I would do it after ſome ſuch way as this:

Twenty pounds a-year I would appoint for an able and honeſt woman to teach forty of the pooreſt children to read, and to ſpin flax or hemp, firſt upon the ſingle and then upon the double wheel; which when they had well learned they would be in a capacity to get their own living.

Five pounds a-year I would allot for the rent of a large room to teach the children in; twenty-five pounds a-year I would aſſign for the buying of hemp and flax to teach the children to ſpin upon.

Twenty-five pounds a-year I would allot for the payment of the poor children that ſhould ſpin the ſame, allowing one penny for every 600 yards of yarn; which the children ſhould every week be paid for and carry home to their poor parents, or elſe be laid out for them in ſuch things as they needed.

Fifteen pounds a-year I would allot for the weaving of ſuch yarn, and whitening ſuch cloth as ſhould be made of the yarn.

Eight pounds a-year I would allot for the buying ſuch wheels and reels as the poor children ſhould uſe, which at their going out of the houſe I would have given unto them.

The remaining two pounds I would appoint to be laid out for a dinner for the truſtees; which ſhould be upon a day prefixed: upon which day they ſhould audite the accounts for the year paſt and diſtribute the cloth which was made, ſome of it to the poor children that ſpun the yarn, and the reſt to other poor people in the pariſh, eſpecially the aged and impotent, it being more eaſy for them to get a meal's meat to feed their hungry bodies than a ſhirt to cover them; neither is the charity much leſs to clothe the naked than to feed the hungry, nor the promiſe greater to the one than to the other. However, by ſuch a deed of charity I ſhould do both; and alſo by teaching the children to read and learn their catechiſms, you ſhould inſtruct their minds, which is a piece of charity no whit inferior to the feeding their bodies or clothing their backs: for without knowledge, Solomon ſaith, "the heart cannot be good;" and God by the prophet complains, "that his people periſh for lack of knowledge."

This ſettlement I would ſo make, that it ſhould not be in the power of the pariſh, nor yet of the truſtees, to alienate to any other uſe or purpoſe whatſoever; but upon ſo doing it ſhould come to the hoſpital of Chriſt Church, or ſome ſuch like foundation; the governors whereof would always take care that the truſt were performed; or in caſe it was not, would ſoon take it out of their hands.

Having thus propoſed (as I conceive) a very likely way to prevent idleneſs in the younger ſort, my next care muſt be to prevent it in thoſe that are of age; which I judge may be done by each pariſh if they would provide ſuch work for them as they might carry to their own homes, which though never ſo mean and homely are more deſirable than any other place; which alſo is the way that I have taken in the pariſh aforeſaid, and which is the way that all the countries take for the ſpinning of thoſe vaſt quantities of yarn which is every year made uſe of for the making of bayes, ſayes, ſerges, and ſtuffs of all ſorts. And that which ſome of late have propoſed, of bringing them to a public work-houſe, will never effect the end deſired; for ſuppoſe a woman hath a ſick child or huſband, or ſome infirmity upon herſelf, in all which caſes ſhe may do ſomething at home, but cannot leave her own houſe: and ſuppoſing that none of theſe ſhould happen, which is yet very frequent, not one perſon of many will endure the thoughts of going to a public work-houſe. Sometimes it happens, nay very frequently I have known, that perſons of good education and well related have fallen into great poverty; which for theſe reaſons, and leſt they ſhould fall into contempt by the diſcovery, they are willing to hide as much as they can, and therefore cannot expoſe themſelves to work in a public place. True indeed, for vagrants and ſturdy beggars that have no habitation, and that will not work unleſs they are held to it as galley-ſlaves are tied to their oars, ſuch work-houſes are very neceſſary, and I wiſh we had more of them, and that thoſe we have were employed to that purpoſe; but

for

for ſuch poor people as have habitations of their own, and are known in the places where they live, and that would take pains at home, it is altogether unreaſonable and unprofitable, in my poor judgment, to bring them to a public work-houſe.

Obj. *But againſt this of every body's carrying their work to their own houſes, it will be objected, What aſſurance can you have, that thoſe poor people to whom you deliver your flax and hemp to ſpin will bring it home again? They may die, and what will become of it then? or they may pawn it, or run away with it?*

Anſ. To all which I anſwer, That it is poſſible that one or all of theſe may happen, as they have done ſometimes among thoſe that I have employed; but to prevent all loſs that may come by theſe ways, if the perſons be wholly unknown, which can hardly be if they live in the pariſh, let them leave ſixpence in hand, which is about the price of a pound of hemp or flax, which no poor body who is of any good behaviour but will find credit for if they have it not of their own, and let this lie as a pawn till they bring home their work, and as long as you ſhall employ them to be ſatisfied of their honeſty.

Obj. *But ſome will object, That by thus ſetting poor people to ſpin, you will take them off from other employments, as winding of ſilk, ſtitching of bodice, knitting of ſtockings, making of lace, or the like, which are more neceſſary employments than ſpinning of flax or hemp to make linen cloth, we having that already very cheap from other countries, for which alſo his Majeſty receives much cuſtom, which by this new trade will wholly be loſt.*

Anſ. To which I anſwer, That there is no fear that any perſon who can wind ſilk, knit ſtockings, make lace, or the like, will leave theſe employments, if they can have them, to ſpin flax and hemp, the price thereof being ſo very low; but if any of theſe ſhould fail, as many times they do, (as for inſtance, knitting of ſilk ſtockings was of late years a very great employment, whereas now they have found out a way to weave both ſilk and worſted, the knitting trade is greatly abated, and it is like, in time, will come to very little), had not then the poor people better ſpin than do nothing? And were it not much better that his Majeſty ſhould loſe the cuſtom of ſome linen cloth, than that the poor people ſhould loſe both their bodies and ſouls too in ſloth and idleneſs; the latter whereof is many times the conſequence of the former.

But as to the cuſtom of cloth, it is humbly conceived, that if a higher impoſt were laid upon foreign linen, it would be a ready way to encourage this manufacture at home, and alſo bring in as much money to his Majeſty, though there ſhould come in leſs cloth than now there doth.

But further, let it be conſidered, that this employment of ſpinning flax and hemp is ſet up and intended only for thoſe perſons that have nothing elſe to do, or that can do little elſe; of which number there are very many ancient people who cannot ſee to wind ſilk, to ſtitch bodice, or to work

with a needle, which yet can ſpin indifferent well: Nay, there are ſome at this time which ſpin to me that can ſee no more than the wheels they ſpin upon, that yet follow this employment, and can draw a thread that for ſome purpoſes doth well enough; and for young children, there is nothing they can more eaſily learn than to ſpin linen, their fingers, being never ſo ſmall, being big enough to pull out the flax and to make a fine thread; inſomuch that ſome children that I have taken up that came begging to my door, which in ſix months time have drawn a pound of flax to ſo fine a thread that the ſpinning hath come to twelve-pence, which very rarely ancient people will draw to ſeven-pence.

Obj. *But again it will be objected, Where will you find a ſtock to employ ſo many poor people as ſhall want work?*

Anſ. To which I anſwer, That there are few pariſhes but either have a ſtock of money, or ſo many good men, that would willingly lend gratis, if not give conſiderably towards the carrying on of ſo good a work as is the employment of the poor; but in caſe either of theſe ſhould fail, the pariſh may as eaſily raiſe a ſtock to ſet the poor at work, as raiſe money by a rate to keep them in idleneſs. It is very well known that ſome pariſhes about London do raiſe ſome thouſands of pounds every year for the relief of their poor; and yet as the matter is handled, very few, who are not through age or ſickneſs confined to their houſes, but do beg up and down the ſtreets. To prevent which, I know no better way than to provide work for all that are able; and inſtead of giving them twelve-pence or two ſhillings in a week in dry money, to give them the like value in flax or hemp; which when they had ſpun they ſhould be paid for at the ſame rate, together with what the ſpinning of it came unto. This in all probability would leſſen the number of our beggars and ſtreet-walkers; who having not ſufficient for the ſupply of their wants allowed them by the pariſh, make up the reſt by begging. If any one of theſe ſhould pretend that they cannot ſpin, the anſwer is very near at hand, they may ſoon learn. Since I ſet up this employment, I have taught ſeveral perſons of about ſixty years of age to ſpin, who do conſtantly follow this work if they have no other. But if this anſwer will not do, the next ſhould; which is this, If the perſon cannot live on her penſion, and will not, being able, accept of ſuch employment as the pariſh hath to give, let her get ſome other; by means of which ſhe may help to maintain herſelf, ſo that ſhe be not found begging in the ſtreets, upon pain of loſing that relief which ſhe received from the pariſh; to prevent which it is like ſhe would fall to work, from which, and her penſion, ſhe might make a good ſhift to live: or otherwiſe let her perſon be ſecured as an idle beggar in the houſe of correction, where ſhe ſhould be made to work or forbid to eat, as the Apoſtle St Paul adviſeth, ſaying, *If any will not work, neither let them eat.*

But further, to encourage the ſetting up of the linen-manufacture for the

the employment of the poor; I desire it may be considered that there is no commodity that I know of, that is of the like value, that can be set up with less stock or less loss at first. Three parts of four even of that cloth which comes not to above two shillings an ell, will be paid for labour to the dresser of the flax, and to the spinner and weaver; and as they spin finer, the price will advance so much, that five parts of six shall go out upon that account. I myself have seen a pound of flax not worth above eighteen-pence at most, spun to that fineness, that the pound of thread hath been worth eight or ten shillings; and from other countries we daily receive thread spun of flax not above three or four shillings a pound, at the price of three or four pound Sterling. Then as to the loss by children and learners, it will not be near so much as in many other things. A child may first be set upon spinning of tow, which cost about two-pence a pound; which though it be spun never so badly, will serve for some kind of use or other, which in wool would be good for nothing, which yet is many times the price.

Moreover I desire it may be considered, that in this trade all sorts of persons, whether young or old, male or female, may find employment; if of years and able, they may beat hemp, dress flax, and make them ready for the spinster, and when spun, may be employed in weaving it; and those of both sexes that are not able may be put to spinning, as it is usual in many places.

Obj. *The next objection I have met with is this, What will you do with all the yarn these poor people shall spin? If you turn it into cloth, the commodity is brought over so cheap, that you will never be able to sell it without much loss.*

Ans. I must confess this objection hath too much of truth in it wholly to be removed; the best answer I can make to it at present is this, That we had better lose something by the labour of the poor, than lose all by letting them live in sloth and idleness: for suppose you should give sixpence for that which really is not worth five-pence, here will five-pence be gained to the nation, though one penny should be lost to the parish. But besides, let it be considered, that if this person had not been employed, there would not less have been spent but rather more; forasmuch as sixpence that is got by labour, doth many times go further than twelvepence given for doing nothing: all that time people are idle they will be spending if they have wherewithal; and if they have not, it is like they will be worse employed, and either beg or steal to supply their wants.

All that I can further say to this objection is only this, That it is to be hoped in time, as our people grow more skilful and industrious, we may be able to sell as cheap as our neighbours; but if we cannot, it is much better to lose something in a way that will make the poor people better and the nation

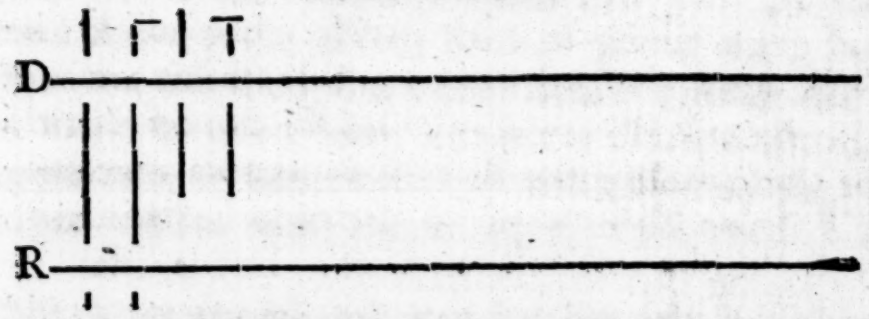
nation richer, than to ſuffer them to live in ſloth and idleneſs, to their utter ruin, and to the great loſs and damage of the kingdom.

Obj. *But it may be ſome will object and ſay, Where will you find perſons that have ſkill to manage this employment? or whom ſhall the pariſh truſt with it? If it be left to every body's care it will come to nothing, foraſmuch as commonly that is nobody's which is every body's buſineſs; and if you leave it to the care of one or two, the pariſh may be cheated.*

Anſ. To this I anſwer, That it is not to be doubted but that in every pariſh ſome ſuch honeſt and faithful perſons may be found, as would not wrong the pariſh nor embezzle one farthing of their ſtock, but account it their honour to be employed in ſo noble and generous a work; which would not only make a better proviſion for the poor, but make them better alſo.

But farther I anſwer, That there needs not much ſkill to manage this affair, and that which is neceſſary will ſoon be learned. This was one of the greateſt encouragements I had to fall upon the linen-manufacture, becauſe there was ſo little of difficulty in it to what there is in ſome others. Every merchant will tell you where you may buy flax and hemp at the beſt hand; and it will be as eaſy to find both men and women that ſhall dreſs them, who will give an account how many pounds of every ſort each hundred weight makes, which you muſt enter into a book for that purpoſe. When this is done, what you deliver of any ſort to the ſpinſter muſt likewiſe be entered, with the name of the perſon and place where ſhe dwells; which I have done by drawing two lines after this manner, with the name of the perſon ſet above: upon the firſt of which lines I make ſo many ſtrokes as I deliver out pounds to the ſpinſter; for tow, which is a cheaper ſort, I make a little daſh on the top of the ſtroke: when it is brought home, I make the ſtrokes thro' both the lines, as above, with a D. for delivered out, and an R. for received in again; but in caſe you ſtill deliver the ſame for quantity and quality that you receive in, you need not trouble yourſelf in this matter, but let the account ſtand juſt as it did at firſt.

A. B. in C. D.



When the yarn comes in, I lay every ſort by itſelf that is ſpun to a fineneſs; and when I deliver any of it to the weaver, I enter to his account the quantity and quality; as for inſtance, to A. B. in C. D. ſo many pound of yarn, which coſt ſuch a price; and when the weaver brings home his cloth I weigh it again; by means of which I can certainly tell you at the making up of the account, whether all my flax and hemp be brought home by the ſpinner,

ſpinner, and all my yarn by the weaver, as alſo what my cloth ſtands me in: by which I do prevent being deceived by others and deceiving myſelf.

When I firſt began to employ the poor in ſpinning, the beſt direction that I could receive was to pay for ſpinning the ſame price that the flax and hemp ſtood me in, or what thoſe ſorts were generally ſold for: but this I ſoon found to be a very unequal way; foraſmuch as ſome people would ſpin a much finer thread than others, and better deſerve eight-pence for ſpinning a pound of flax that coſt but ſix-pence, than another four-pence: ſo that after a little time I brought all the poor people to ſpin ſix hundred yards for a penny were the thread finer or coarſer, which was three knots or lays about a half-yard reel, with one hundred threads in a lay, which makes juſt ſix hundred yards; and ſince then, with much ado, finding the loſs to be great, I have brought them to fifty yards more, which yet is much leſs than is ſpun in other places. In the contract which the city of Briſtol made with one Mr King and others, for the employment of five hundred of their poor people in the way of ſpinning, for the firſt year he was obliged to pay them twopence halfpenny for ſixteen hundred yards of yarn, which is much about the price that I pay the poor people here, becauſe they being either wholly to learn, or much to ſeek, might not be diſcouraged; but after the firſt year, by this contract, he might alter the price, provided he never brought them to ſpin above eight hundred yards for a penny: and I doubt not, if our poor people could be brought to ſpin ſo much here, there would be no loſs by the linen we make, but rather profit; but the miſchief of it is, our poor people have not been brought up either to work hard or to fare hardly, and the trade of begging being known to be ſo eaſy and gainful, they will much rather range about forty or fifty pariſhes in a day, and get a penny in each pariſh, than work hard in one to get ſix-pence or eight-pence, which they muſt do in this employment. So that till the magiſtrate will do his duty, and ſee the laws put in execution againſt beggars, or the people grow ſo wiſe as not to encourage this wicked courſe of life, I have little hope to ſee this matter much amended.

Having given you an account of the price I pay for ſpinning, I ſhall now tell you what I pay for flax and hemp (though this is ſometimes more or leſs as the markets riſe or fall), as alſo what I pay for dreſſing them, and for weaving the cloth I make; becauſe I would give the greateſt encouragement I could to the ſetting up this manufacture for the employment of our poor people, till ſome other or better way ſhould be found out.

For Riga hemp at this time I pay twenty ſhillings a hundred, which is very low; for Quinborough about twenty-two, which is cheap; for Muſcovia flax about forty-four a hundred; for Quinborough about forty ſhil-

ſings a hundred; for Holladay about thirty-ſix; for Pater-noſter flax about thirty; (all which prices are very high to what they are at ſome times); for Engliſh flax about five-pence halfpenny a pound, undreſſed; which prices I rather inſert to give buyers a little aim, than for a ſtanding rule. For beating of hemp I pay four ſhillings and eight-pence a hundred weight.

For dreſſing hemp long or ſhort, eleven-pence a dozen pound; for dreſſing flax I give three-pence a ſtone, accounting eight pound to the ſtone.

For weaving cloth I pay the ſeveral prices following: For yarn ſpun to ſix-pence and ſeven-pence a pound, for every ell of cloth half-ell wide, two-pence halfpenny; for that which is three quarters wide, three-pence; for that which is three quarters and half wide, three-pence halfpenny; for that which is yard wide, four-pence; for that which is ell wide, five pence.

For yarn ſpun to nine-pence and ten-pence a pound, I pay one halfpenny more for every half-quarter of an ell, riſing as before; in that of ſeven-pence and eight-pence, and the like in that which is ſtill finer; for coarſe cloth yard half-quarter wide, I pay three-pence an ell; and for ſacking about three-pence a yard.

Which prices I have here inſerted, as I ſaid before, rather to give ſome aim than to be a ſtanding rule; yet this I am ſure, no one need to exceed them, but in ſome places they may be abated according to the cheapneſs of living over what it is in this city.

It is a thing greatly to be wiſhed that we could make linen cloth here as cheap as they ſend it us from abroad; but if that cannot be done, nor any other way found out to employ our poor people, we had much better loſe ſomething by the labour of our poor, than loſe all their labour and keep them into the bargain, which muſt be done one way or other; for the back and belly have no ears, hunger will break through ſtone walls; and if ſome people cannot honeſtly, they will any way ſupply their wants, though they are hanged for their pains.

But thanks be to God there are ſtill amongſt us an honeſt ſort of poor people that are content to take any pains for a living, rather than beg or ſteal; and for their ſakes chiefly I have ſet up this employment, and do heartily wiſh it were better for their ſakes, they being indeed the trueſt objects of charity that will do what they can to get a living; and it is great pity that ſuch poor ſouls ſhould not be helped, if by what they are able to do they cannot procure to themſelves neceſſaries of this ſort. You very ſeldom ſee any begging about the ſtreets, except upon ſome extraordinary occaſion or accident, and then it is done with great modeſty, and as much againſt their natures as any thing in the world but ſtarving.

But as for thoſe common beggars, and eſpecially thoſe profligate wretches

called the Running Camp, which every day peſter our ſtreets; they are a people that one would think came from the ſuburbs of hell itſelf, a diſhonour to human nature, a ſhame to the government, and an intolerable trouble to all perſons they come near, by their ſwearing, ſcolding, fighting, &c. You may eaſily know them as alſo by their numbers, for they commonly go in companies, and will be preſent at all ſolemnity, but more eſpecially at feaſts and funerals. Of late they are grown ſo impudent, that they will thruſt themſelves into churches, and by their brawling and ſcolding many times diſturb the miniſter: when ſermon is done, the congregation muſt not paſs out but one by one, becauſe they will make the moſt they can of it, by aſking every perſon ſomething; and what they get they ſpend as wickedly as they get it: ſo that to relieve theſe miſcreants is a greater act of folly (that I ſay no worſe of it), than to throw a man's money down the Thames, for hereby you give encouragement to this wicked kind of life; and would once people be perſuaded to forbear this fooliſh pity, they would be neceſſitated to work. I lately heard a gentleman tell this ſtory, who was purſued by a luſty rogue in Lincoln's-inn-fields, that refuſing to give him any thing, cried, Ah! Maſter, if all were of your mind, I know what I would do? Upon the hearing of which he turned back again, and ſaid, Why, Sirrah, what would you do? Truly, Maſter, ſaid he, I would fall to work! And I doubt not but the reſt of his brethren would do the like, but that they find begging ſo beneficial a trade.

It is not above ſix months ſince that a gentleman of good quality that lives in the country told me, that having occaſion to paſs ſome of the fields about the town, he met with a young fellow that aſked him for an alms; whom he no ſooner looked upon but he well remembered him to have lived in the ſame pariſh where he did, and aſking him if he were not ſuch a man, he told him he was, and preſently called the gentleman by his name; who aſking him how long he had followed that trade? told him, Ever ſince his wife died, which was about three years: In ſhort, the beggar aſked him where he lay, and deſired he might have leave to wait upon him at his chamber, which he readily granted him; withal wondering in himſelf what he ſhould have to ſay to him; but when he came, he ſoon acquainted him with his buſineſs, which was to get him to put out 200 l. that he had gotten by his new trade, to keep him, as he ſaid, when he was old; by which you ſee that begging is a very gainful trade. So that it is no wonder that ſo many fall upon it, and that all places, but eſpecially this city and ſuburbs, are ſo filled with them; nor is there any hopes to ſee them fewer till the laws are put in execution, both againſt them and thoſe that do relieve them. If any ſhall think that I am very uncharitable becauſe I would have all luſty beggars made to work or ſoundly whipped, and ſuch as relieve them puniſhed as the laws require, I am very confident that they do not conſider upon what good grounds ſuch laws were made,

nor the great evil ſuch relief doth both to the perſons themſelves as well as to the nation, nor yet the plain injunction of the Apoſtle, who ſaith, *If any will not work, neither let them eat.*

Obj. *But ſome will ſtill object againſt the ſetting up the linen-manufacture, That the commodity is more proper for other countries, becauſe they have more plenty of hemp and flax; and alſo, that if we do not take off their linen, they will not take off our woollen cloth, which is the ſtaple commodity of our nation, and ought rather to be encouraged than any other.*

Anſ. To which I anſwer, firſt, That, for flax, our country, at leaſt ſome parts of it, is as proper as any other, and may with good management be made ſo for hemp alſo.

A worthy perſon in Surry having a mind to employ his poor neighbours, and to prevent the great miſchiefs that idleneſs had produced among them, as begging, ſtealing, and breaking of hedges, reſolved to ſet up the trade of ſpinning flax, and making of cloth, which for ſome time he did, by ſupplying himſelf with flax from London; but afterwards he cauſed ten acres of his own land to be ſown with flax: and after a juſt computation of his charge, reckoning his neat flax at one penny in a pound leſs than he paid for the ſame ſort from London the year before, made twenty ſhillings an acre of his ground, which would not have been let at four ſhillings.

But, ſecondly, Let it be conſidered, that ſome countries have fallen upon the making of woollen cloth, and others in a manner prohibited it, by laying ſo great a charge upon it; ſo that it is in a manner abſolutely neceſſary for us to fall upon the making of linen cloth, to make up the damage they have done us.

It is true, the exchange of commodities one nation with another, is a very profitable way of commerce, provided the balance of trade be any thing equal, which it is well known hath not been with France for ſome years of late; ſo that there is very great reaſon we ſhould fall upon making ſuch cloth as we receive from thence, and that as great an impoſition ſhould be laid upon their linen cloth as they have laid upon our woollen. The linens imported from France of late years, as ſaith *Britannia Languens*, hath been eſtimated at five hundred thouſand pounds; and ſo much as our importations from France exceed our exportations thither, ſo much the nation loſeth and is impoveriſhed, and in the ſame proportion France gains; which may be accounted a double loſs to England, not only in making us ſo much poorer, but alſo in making our moſt formidable neighbour ſo much the richer, and conſequently ſo much the more able to do us harm: therefore ſo much cloth as we make here, and would otherwiſe be brought us from France, to the ſame proportion our nation ſaves and France loſeth; which is a double advantage to us.

I confeſs it is very neceſſary that the woollen manufacture ſhould be kept

kept up to the height, and a thouſand pities that any of our wool ſhould be carried out of England unwrought, eſpecially at ſuch a time as this when the commodity is ſo much advanced, and grown ſo ſcarce that it is much to be feared we ſhall not long have enough for thoſe hands that are already employed in it; ſo that inſtead of prohibiting the wearing of ſilk and hair-ſtuffs for five months in a year, when ſo many thouſand perſons are employed in thoſe commodities, it is thought may prove very prejudicial, and that we had more need to encourage theſe manufactures, or any other, to employ our poor, than forbid them: Neither, indeed, will this be a way to leſſen our woollen-manufacture, but much more to increaſe it; foraſmuch as any perſon that wears ſilk or hair that is brought from beyond ſea in exchange for our woollen cloth, may be truly ſaid to wear twice as much as he that has nothing but woollen upon his back.

I deſire alſo that it may be conſidered, that although it matters not how great a price is paid for what is worn of the woollen-manufacture among ourſelves, yet if we ſhall not be able to ſend it abroad at a reaſonable price, we ſhall put other countries upon ſeeking out other commodities that will be cheaper, which may prove very miſchievous.

There is no great danger that ever our making of linen ſhould do it much harm, unleſs we could make it cheaper than we have it from other places; and then if we furniſhed them with linen to as good advantage as woollen, the matter would be much the ſame.

But, laſtly, I am not fond of one employment for our poor more than for another; let but our idle people be employed, and the trade of begging ſuppreſſed, and I ſhall have attained my end: for this I am ſure is a far greater evil to the nation, and every way more miſchievous, than the ſetting them to make linen cloth or any other thing would be. Nay, I am very confident, I conceive upon good grounds, that it were much better for the nation to employ the poor to pick ſtraws, if there were no better employment for them, than to let them live in ſloth and idleneſs, becauſe what they got by their labours would go much farther than ſo much given them for doing nothing; all the idle perſon hath to do is to ſpend what you give him, which he will quickly do when that is all his buſineſs, but he that is employed hath ſomething elſe to mind: neither will his wants be ſo many as the others, nor himſelf in half ſo much danger as the idle perſon, whoſe head is the Devil's anvil, where he forges all his inſtruments of death, and by being altogether at leiſure, may even be ſaid to tempt the Devil himſelf to fall upon him, being ready, for want of other or better buſineſs, to do any thing which either the Devil or his own wicked heart can ſuggeſt to him, or ſet him upon.

But there is one objection more which I have lately met with, which I cannot well paſs over, and that is this:

Obj. *Though it cannot be denied but that in the general the employment of*

the

the poor is a very good work, yet it may not be convenient to ſet up any manufacture in this city for the doing of it, leſt by this means you drain the countries of all their poor people, and in time ſo fill the city and ſuburbs with them, that all the manufactures in England ſhall not be enough to employ them; and alſo, becauſe by experience it is found, that all thoſe places where there is any manufacture ſet up, are much fuller of poor people than any other. And laſtly, becauſe it is not convenient that the making and conſumption of any commodity ſhould be in one and the ſame place.

Anſ. To which I anſwer, firſt, That if the employment of the poor be good in any place, it is ſo here, both becauſe they are more in number in this city and ſuburbs than in any other places; and becauſe if they are here ſuffered to be idle, they will have more temptations and opportunities to do miſchief, than they will have anywhere elſe.

As to what is objected, That by the ſetting up of any manufacture here for the employment of the poor, you will deceive the countries of all their poor people, and at laſt ſo fill the city and ſuburbs with them, that all the manufactures of England ſhall not be enough to ſupply them;

I anſwer, firſt, That there will need no more work to employ them in the city than in the country; ſo that if all the manufactures in England will not employ them here, neither will they do it in the country. But,

Secondly, I deſire it may be conſidered, that where there is one perſon comes to this city to find work, there is two comes to beg or to do worſe; ſo that if due care were taken to employ all perſons that were idle, and the laws put in execution againſt beggars, a great many perſons would ſoon leave the city and return to their own countries, where they might have near as much money for their work, or at leaſt more meat for their money; and till this eaſy and gainful, though wicked trade of begging, ſhall be ſuppreſſed, I do not expect to ſee fewer but more beggars every day. It is well known, that of late years many perſons have come from the fartheſt parts of this nation to ſet up this trade here; and if ſpeedy care be not taken to prevent it, this city and ſuburbs will drain all the poor people of England unto them, begging being here a better trade than anywhere elſe, and greater encouragement given to it.

As to that part of the objection, which ſaith, That thoſe towns where there is any manufacture ſet up, are fuller of poor people than any other places; the anſwer is eaſy.

Firſt, Becauſe thoſe places have abundantly more people in them than any other, all manufactures being carried on chiefly by the poor, and not only by the rich; ſo neceſſary are the poor to the carrying on of any manufacture, that the one would ceaſe without the other.

But let it alſo be conſidered, that as in theſe places there are the pooreſt, ſo alſo here are the richeſt; and as there are in theſe places more poor people than in others, ſo alſo there are more rich people than in thoſe places where

where there is no manufacture, the trade of ſuch places being very little. Let any one compare the trade of Colcheſter with the trade of Ipſwich, and he ſhall find, that where the town of Ipſwich gets one penny, the town of Colcheſter gets twelve-pence; and for every twelve-pence returned in Ipſwich, there is near twenty ſhillings returned in Colcheſter. Let the poor of any place be never ſo many, provided they work and do not eat the bread of idleneſs, the place will be the richer for them, and the trade far the better; for theſe people muſt eat and drink, and wear clothes, as well, though not ſo good, as thoſe that are richer; and by theſe the trade will be much increaſed, and the inhabitants made much richer than otherwiſe they would be: A multitude of poor people well employed, would be like a multitude of bees in a hive, which would much ſooner fill it with honey than if they were fewer.

I would gladly know how our poor people ſhall be provided for, if begging muſt not be allowed, nor working encouraged, for fear of bringing more poor people among us. Put the caſe, this were an evil, which yet I cannot allow, Muſt we not do good to our own poor, for fear it ſhould bring the poor of other places among us? For my part, I am ſo far from thinking abundance of poor people an evil, that if they were well employed they would prove a bleſſing to us: "For in all labour there is profit," ſaith the wiſe man; it is only idleneſs that makes the poor a burden both to themſelves and the places where they inhabit.

But laſtly, That all pretences may be taken away from ſuch as object againſt our employment of the poor among us, leſt we ſhould bring in the poor of other places: If the ſeveral pariſhes do not like of this, they have laws to keep them out; and they may thank themſelves that ſo many neceſſitous perſons do daily come in among them, becauſe they do not prevent inmates, but ſuffer any to ſettle among them that may be chargeable, without giving ſecurity to prevent it.

But it is further ſaid in the objection, That the making and conſumption of any commodity ſhould not be in one and the ſame place.

To which it is anſwered, That this part of the objection, even by the confeſſion of all, hath no force in it as to many things; and why it ſhould as to any, I ſee no reaſon. It was never doubted but that good beer and ale, which ſome call our Engliſh manufacture, may without any prejudice be made and conſumed in one and the ſame place; and why not any commodity for the back, if there be need of them, as well as thoſe for the belly, I do not underſtand. We uſe to ſay, Every man will chriſten his own child firſt: So much of any commodity as is neceſſary, will be made uſe of in the place where it is made, and only the reſt ſent abroad.

Put the caſe, For want of other employment, the city of London ſhould ſet their poor people upon making linen cloth, and that in time they ſhould be able to fit the country with it upon as good terms as they do twenty

others

others that are made in this city, Where would be the prejudice, if in the firſt place they ſupplied themſelves with what they have occaſion for?

But as to the ſort of work you will employ the poor people in, I am not concerned ſo much for that as that you do employ them ſome way or other, and prevent that idle kind of life which many of them lead, which will bring them not only to beggary, but to all manner of vice, as hath been already obſerved. From what hath been already ſaid, I think it doth plainly appear, that the only way to prevent poverty and want among thoſe that are well and able to work, is to bring them to labour, and prevent idleneſs; which being done, it will be much eaſier to provide for thoſe that through age, ſickneſs, or the like, are utterly incapable of doing any thing towards their own maintenance. And that this might effectually be done, care muſt be taken to put the laws in execution which are made on that behalf; which, I am told, hath ſtrictly enjoined every pariſh to take care that ſuch perſons may have ſuch an allowance as may be ſuitable and ſufficient for their wants, that ſo they need not be neceſſitated to beg, nor forced to go out of their own pariſh to ſeek relief; inſomuch, that if the places where they live be not able to give them a ſufficient ſupply to their wants and neceſſities, they ought to apply themſelves to their next neighbours for help and aſſiſtance, and in caſe they fail herein it is their own fault. And indeed, what can be more reaſonable than ſuch laws as theſe? Foraſmuch as there is nothing can tend more to the diſhonour of any nation, than to ſee ſuch poor, aged, ſick, and impotent people, neceſſitated to beg up and down the ſtreets, when God knows many times they are fitter to be in bed. That we do not force ſuch as are able to work and get their own livings, is a ſhame only to our prudence and want of good government; but that we neceſſitate ſuch perſons as thoſe to beg, is a ſhame to our very profeſſion of Chriſtianity, and ſhows that we are hard-hearted and have no bowels of compaſſion to our poor brethren. Surely this is not to give honour to the aged, nor to be eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame, and wiſdom to them which have no underſtanding; nor yet to do to others as we would that they ſhould do unto us, if we were in ſuch circumſtances. It many times falls out, that perſons who have lived well in their younger years, and it may be wrought hard when they were able, that by reaſon of ſickneſs, or ſome ſad accident, have come to poverty in their old age.

How often hath it fallen out that widows, by truſting their eſtates in the hands of knaves, have loſt all they had, and been brought to want? having out-lived all their friends and near relations, and nothing to help them but the kindneſs of the pariſh: and if that fail, how miſerable muſt they be?

Now for the prevention of which, I would propoſe one or two things more.

Firſt, That in every great pariſh there might be ſome other perſons appointed beſides the church-wardens, who ſhould be men of the beſt repu-

tation, both for honeſty and eſtates, whom I would have given that honourable title of being called Fathers for the Poor, as it is now in the French and Dutch churches; whoſe chief work and buſineſs it ſhould be to viſit ſuch poor people, and to inſpect their wants, and to have ſome part at leaſt of the pariſh ſtock committed to them for the ſupply of their wants: whereas now, alas! the poor people muſt themſelves apply to the church-wardens, if they are able to travel abroad; otherwiſe if their own neighbours, which many times are poor enough themſelves, are not the kinder, they may periſh in their own houſes for want of food, phyſic, fire, or clothes, as I have great reaſon to believe many hundreds have done of late years. I pray God lay it not to our charge, that in a nation ſo abounding with riches and plenty as England doth, any perſon ſhould periſh through want. It is well known, that the church-wardens of moſt pariſhes come not to thoſe places, becauſe they are better or richer men than others, but becauſe of their long ſtanding in the pariſh; and many times, God knows, they are no more affected with the wants and neceſſities of a poor creature, than a grave-maker at the ſight of a dead corpſe.

Secondly, I propoſe, that ſome ſuch houſes may be erected here as are in Holland for the reception of aged perſons, to which they may reſort, and be admitted as ſoon as they find themſelves in a declining condition, before all is ſpent or loſt, paying for their admittance according to their age, and the quality of ſuch houſes as they ſhould deſire to go into; for of theſe I would have ſeveral ſorts. This in a few years would prevent much of that poverty and neceſſity that oftentimes fall upon old age; as, to give an inſtance or two, ſuppoſe that a woman buries her huſband, who leaves her goods and money to the value of one or two hundred pounds, but altogether unable to manage the trade her huſband followed, or any other, what can this poor woman do to live upon the intereſt of this money? though ſhe knew never ſo well how to ſecure it, ſhe cannot; and if ſhe lives upon the principal, it will ſoon be gone. In ſuch a caſe, what more adviſable than that this perſon forthwith go and purchaſe for herſelf a being in one of theſe houſes, where ſhe ſhall be well provided for as long as ſhe lives, and be delivered from the fear of want in her old age, which many times is more grievous than the fear of death itſelf?

How often have it fallen out, that widows who were left well by their huſbands, for want of underſtanding to manage their eſtates, or by truſting it in inſolvent hands, have loſt all and brought themſelves to poverty; or ſuppoſe, as many times it happeneth, that while a man and his wife live, their trade ſhould either grow out of faſhion, or ſo bad that it was not poſſible for them either to get a living by it or to fall into any other. In this caſe, would it not be much for the advantage of both theſe perſons, while ſomething was left, to go and make proviſion for themſelves in one

of theſe houſes, where they ſhould be comfortably provided for as long as they lived and the longer liver of them.

I doubt not but there are many perſons that have known the caſes now put often to happen, and many others of the like nature. This would be a ſort of charity, if I may call it charity, very advantageous to the perſons that ſhould partake of it, and as it may fall out, very profitable to the ſetter of it up, but however without loſs, and would really be a far greater piece of ſervice done to the nation than are for the moſt part our alms-houſes; which though never ſo well intended, are in ſome reſpects prejudicial, drawing poor people to ſettle in ſuch places where they are erected, and a means to make ſome people careleſs in laying up any thing againſt old age in hopes of being there provided for: Not that I would wholly diſcourage this way of charity, in ſome reſpects it may be good; but yet I will ſay, that this is no way inferior to it, inaſmuch as many times it would effectually prevent that poverty which often falls upon old age, which is doubtleſs as great an act of charity as to relieve perſons in neceſſity. I am verily perſuaded, if one ſuch building as this I am now ſpeaking of was erected, for the reception of aged men or women, or both, and well endowed for the performance of ſuch conditions as ſhould be made, there would be no want of perſons to go into it; and that in a ſhort time ſo many would be erected that the next generation ſhould not ſee one quarter of ſo many poor aged people expoſed to beggary as in this. There are ſome perſons that I know who have poor relations, that would willingly be at one or two hundred pounds charge to ſee them thus provided for. I wiſh that all that were able were ſo well-minded; but on the contrary, to their ſhame be it ſpoken, I know ſome that have ſo little charity for their poor relations, that though they are able, yet ſuffer them to want, nay, to beg. I hope the number of ſuch unnatural wretches are not many; yet ſome ſuch there are who provide not for their own kindred, of whom the Apoſtle ſaith, " that they have denied the faith, and are worſe than in-" fidels."

But now, Sir, that I may give you an account of the work-houſe in Alderſgate Pariſh, and the management of affairs there (which was the thing you deſired, and what firſt I chiefly intended); by which I hope there will appear a very likely way to prevent much poverty for the future, and beggary for the preſent.

The houſe being finiſhed, I acquainted the pariſh, that if they had any poor people that wanted employment, if they went thither I would ſupply them upon theſe conditions, viz. that they ſhould not take away their penſions from any that I employed, nor give penſions to any but ſuch as would, being able, follow that work I had to give them, or ſome other; by means of which, and the penſion received from the pariſh, they might provide for themſelves without begging: For I have long obſerved, that a great many

of thoſe perſons we find begging up and down the ſtreets, are ſuch as do receive ſome penſion from the pariſhes where they live; but that being too ſmall to maintain them, they make up the reſt by begging, which might eaſily be prevented in every pariſh, as it was in this we are now ſpeaking of, there being here no perſon that had a penſion, and was able to work, but was ſupplied therewith; and with theſe together were enabled to make good proviſion for themſelves, and to live much more happily than before. And if at any time any of theſe perſons ſhould be found begging in the ſtreets, the pariſh promiſed to take away their penſions, and I promiſed to take away their work, and leave them to provide for themſelves as well as they could, which muſt be by begging or ſtealing; but wherever they begged it ſhould not be in this pariſh, at leaſt not with any good ſucceſs: For the pariſh having called over all their poor people, and appointed work for thoſe that were able, thought it convenient to give a badge with the three firſt letters of the pariſh's name upon it, to ſuch and only ſuch as they found uncapable of any labour; by means of which they were permitted to go into the pariſh, if they were able, or elſe to ſend ſome in their names at ſuch an hour of the day, to receive ſuch broken bread and meat as their neighbours had to give, who alſo promiſed to give it unto theſe and no others. For by this badge, which was made of blue and yellow bayes, pinned upon their ſleeve or breaſt, they were known to the inhabitants to be thoſe very perſons whom the deputy, common-council men, and church-wardens, had judged fit to receive ſuch charity. And I know not why any body ſhould be offended that the pariſhioners ſhould invite their poor neighbours once a-day to come to their houſes to receive ſuch bread and meat as they were willing to give them; neither would I have theſe poor people go under ſo diſhonourable a name as *beggars*, but to be looked upon as invited gueſts.

And would their rich neighbours now and then invite them to their tables, it would take away this reproach, and be an obligation upon their ſervants to take care that what they gave them at other times were decently ſet by for them, and not ſcrambled up and down as in ſome places I have ſeen it done, as if it were to be given to dogs rather than Chriſtians: this were indeed to follow the advice of our bleſſed Lord and Saviour, who ſaith, Luke xiv. 13, *When thou makeſt a feaſt call the poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind, for they cannot recompenſe thee, but thou ſhalt be recompenſed at the reſurrection of the juſt.*

And this courſe of giving a badge to your own poor neighbours by which they might be known, and reſolving to relieve no others unleſs there were not enough of theſe; in which caſe ſome from other pariſhes might be allowed to come in like manner; though at firſt ſight it may ſeem to have little in it, yet if duly practiſed, would be found of very great moment,

and productive of many good effects, inſomuch that it is impoſſible it ſhould fail unleſs the pariſh fail in their promiſe.

For firſt of all, by this means you will in a ſhort time clear your pariſh of all thoſe idle beggars that daily infeſt it, to the great trouble of all houſe-keepers, whoſe doors are ſeldom quiet from one or other of them, to the great diſturbance of the whole family, it being in ſome places almoſt one body's work to give them anſwers.

Then this will tend to the quiet of all paſſengers that ſhall have occaſion to go thro' your pariſh, who are wont to be haunted with thoſe evil-ſpirits from one end of the ſtreet to the other; and if by accident they meet with any one by the way with whom they have occaſion to ſpeak, and ſhall make the leaſt halt, they muſt in their own defence give them ſomething to be gone, or elſe they will hear all they ſay, or by their begging hinder them from ſaying any thing: this is a thing ſo well known to all that live in or frequent the city, that I need not ſay more concerning it. Now by means of a badge the pariſh will know whom they relieve; and when it ſhall come to be known that they have reſolved to relieve at their doors no other but their own poor neighbours, as it will in a ſhort time, the common beggars will know better how to employ their time, than in viſiting ſuch places where nothing is to be got.

And while this pariſh of Alderſgate took the courſe preſcribed them, I myſelf have taken a friend and gone through the chief places of this pariſh and have not found one beggar in it. I muſt confeſs of late they have been ſomething remiſs in the proſecution of the methods agreed upon, but I doubt not they will fall upon it again; (for I hear inſtead of badges made of bayes, they have made ſome of braſs, and reſolve to give the poor, aged, and impotent people, new coats all made of grey cloth to put them upon, that ſo the pariſh may the better know their own poor people that are appointed to take ſuch relief as they have to give at their doors), and then I am ſure what I now tell you was done will be done again.

Obj. *But here it will be objected, That ſome pariſhes are ſo full of poor people who are not able to work, that they are not able to relieve one quarter of them in this kind.*

Anſ. To which I anſwer, That there are ſeveral pariſhes and ſome wards within the city of London, which have very few or no poor people in them; wherefore I humbly propoſe, that by the allowance of the Lord Mayor, &c. it may be permitted to thoſe poor pariſhes to ſend daily ſome of their pooreſt people for relief.

As for example, ſuppoſe the pariſh of Aldgate, which is very full of poor people, ſhould be permitted to ſend ſuch a number of them into the ward of Langburn, with a badge of the pariſh by which they might be known, at ſuch an hour of the day, to receive what bread and meat they had to give, and this ward deſired by the alderman, deputy, or common-council man

of

of every precinct, to give their broken victuals only to theſe perſons; this in a ſhort time would have the like effect in this ward as it had in the pariſh aforeſaid. Yet leſt it ſhould be found troubleſome to the ward, that theſe poor people ſhould be ranging about it from one end to another, it might with eaſe be ordered that every precinct ſhould have ſuch a number allotted according to its bigneſs or ſmallneſs, to receive their fragments; by which means the ward ſhould be more quiet, and the ſtreets rid of thoſe multitude of beggars which are every day found in them, to the great trouble of the people, and the diſhonour of the government, as hath been ſaid.

And till ſome ſuch courſe as this was taken, I would adviſe every family that have broken bread and meat to beſtow, that they would not throw it away upon thoſe common beggars that come to their doors every day, who many times are too fine mouthed to eat any of it themſelves, unleſs a choice bit now and then, and either throw away the reſt or ſell it unto others; but rather to invite two or three poor families to come for it at ſuch times as you ſhould appoint, which would be a great comfort to them. This is the way which I have taken for many years laſt paſt; ſo that now my door is ſeldom troubled by common beggars on this account.

From what hath been ſaid, I ſuppoſe it will appear very practicable to bring all the pariſhes in England into ſuch a method that no poor body ſhould want work or be permitted to beg, otherwiſe than by the allowance of the pariſh, which yet I would not have called by this term; for what hath been done in one pariſh may be done in every one, if the circumſtances are the ſame.

But it is like ſome will ſtill object and ſay, That this of Alderſgate pariſh is a rich pariſh, and the poor very few in it to what there are in others; ſo that what is related may with greater eaſe be effected here than where the poor are more numerous.

Anſ. To this I ſay, It is very true there are ſeveral rich men in this pariſh, and the poor of this pariſh, though many, are not yet ſo many as in ſome others; yet even here there are many poor people and their children that do ſpin flax and hemp, though they are not all penſioners to the pariſh, nor I hope ever will be, it being my deſign to prevent that as much as I can. But over and beſides thoſe of this pariſh, there are above fifteen hundred more out of other pariſhes in and about the city of London, ſome of which do conſtantly follow this employment, and others only when they have no better. As ſuppoſe a poor woman that goeth three days in a week to waſh or ſcour abroad, or one that is employed in nurſe-keeping three or four months in a year, or a poor market-woman that attends three or four mornings in a week with her baſket, and all the reſt of the time theſe folks have little or nothing elſe to do; but by means of this ſpinning are not only kept within doors (ſome of which would otherwiſe be begging in the

ſtreets),

ſtreets), but made much more happy and cheerful, being by their own labours able to make proviſion for themſelves.

And were the rich of this pariſh fewer than they be, and the poor many more than they are, the ſame courſe might be taken, and would prove effectual to the ends before expreſſed; and by how much greater the number of the poor people are, by ſo much the more need to find them employment, it being much more eaſy to provide them work than to keep them in idleneſs; and much more for their advantage to be put into a way to get their own bread than to give it them for nothing. If with their penſion you find them employment, it is like that ſixpence will go further and do them more good than three ſhillings; nothing being more miſchievous to the poor than to live in ſloth and idleneſs, as hath been ſaid.

But further, to encourage the ſetting up of ſchools in every great pariſh for the inſtruction of young children and bringing them to labour, and alſo for providing work for ſuch as are of age, which they may carry to their own habitations, I have a few things more to ſay.

Firſt, By means hereof you will prevent much of that miſchief that happens to young children, by ſuffering them to wander up and down without any care or government; by reaſon of which they do not only get a lazy idle habit, which yet is no ſmall evil, but learn all manner of wickedneſs that they are capable of, as lying, ſwearing, thieving, and ſuch like, which by ſad experience we find many times they retain as long as they live, being bred in the bone will hardly be got out of the fleſh; it being almoſt as poſſible to waſh the blackamoor white, as it is to teach them to do well that have been long accuſtomed to do evil: Whereas, if due care were taken to inſtruct young children, and to put them into a good courſe of life before evil had taken hold of them, both labour and virtue would be much more pleaſing to them than idleneſs, ſloth, and vice.

Then by providing work for ſuch of your poor people as are able, and may want it, by this means you ſhall in the firſt place moſt certainly make proviſion for all the honeſt and induſtrious poor in your pariſh, who will with great joy and thankfulneſs be employed in any honeſt way to get a penny, idleneſs being to them the greateſt burden in the world; inſomuch that ſeveral perſons have told me they have taken as much pleaſure in earning a penny as they have in uſing it, their minds being all that time quiet in which they have been employed, and the day ſeemed ſhorter and paſſed away much more pleaſantly than otherwiſe it would have done, no part of it being a burden to them: and had you ſeen, as I have done many a time, with what joy and ſatisfaction many poor people have brought home their work and received their money for it, you would think no charity in the world like to this of finding them employment. Do not think that all the poor people in England are like thoſe idle vagrants you find up and down the ſtreets; no, there are many thouſands whoſe neceſſities are very great,

and

and yet they do what they can by their honeſt labour to help themſelves, and many times they would do more than they do: but for want of employment, ſeveral that I have now working to me do ſpin ſome fourteen and ſome ſixteen hours in four-and-twenty, and had much rather do it than be idle.

Herè, if it were to the purpoſe, I could tell you many ſad ſtories of the great wants and neceſſities of ſeveral poor people that I have been an eye-witneſs of, that would melt the moſt rocky heart into compaſſion; the poorеſt people are many times thoſe that come leaſt in ſight, who fare hard, and work hard to get bread.

Some trades are grown ſo bad, and ſeveral commodities fallen ſo low in their price, that ſome who could with eaſe have earned two ſhillings or two ſhillings and ſixpence in a day, can now hardly earn twelve-pence; by reaſon of which you have men run away from their wives and children, leaving them to the pariſh; and ſometimes run diſtracted, or make away with themſelves: Inſtances of all which caſes I have known too many.

To whom ſhould charity be extended rather than to ſuch poor people who are willing to take any pains for their living, and yet are wholly idle many times for want of work? But by this means of providing work for all perſons that want employment, it will be much more eaſy for the honeſt and laborious poor to find relief.

Secondly, By this means you will leave all idle perſons ſo much without excuſe, that they will not deſerve your pity; whatſoever their wants and neceſſities are, they muſt thank themſelves, who will not make uſe of ſuch a means as is put into their own power: for if this courſe was taken in all pariſhes to employ all that were able and did want work, then when you ſaw a luſty perſon begging in the ſtreets you might ſay, Go to your pariſh and work for your living. But unleſs this be done, and you are ſure that this perſon may have employment, to bid him go work for his living, is no better than to ſay to a brother or ſiſter that is naked and deſtitute of daily food, Go, be warmed and filled; but give them not thoſe things that are needful for the body.

I pray God lay it not to the charge of this city and ſuburbs, that ſo little care hath been taken in this reſpect; for this is one of thoſe things to which it is chiefly owing that our priſons are ſo full of felons and debtors; of which it is thought no age hath produced the like. For though I know one man that within a few years laſt paſt, with the charity of ſome worthy perſons, hath delivered many hundred poor people out of priſon, that lay there either for their fees or very ſmall debts, and I have reaſon to believe that many more hath been delivered by others; yet let any one but go to the Marchalſea or the priſon of White Chapel, or to the two Compters of London, and he ſhall find them very full of priſoners at this time.

It was hoped that the city of London would have provided a ſtock, and appointed a place to which poor perſons might have brought their pawns, and have been ſupplied with money upon any extremity, which would have been no loſs to the city and much to the advantage of the poor; who now are fain to go to ſuch brokers as will not lend twenty ſhillings a-week under ſix-pence, which comes to twenty-ſix ſhillings a-year; by which trade they make above two of one in a year's time, to the ruin of many poor people. Neither is this the worſt of it, but for every twenty ſhillings they borrow they muſt leave many times above forty ſhillings worth of goods, which they muſt fetch away in ſuch a time, which being never ſo little elapſed the goods are no more to be heard of.

Neither are many of our tally-men much better, who truſt poor perſons with twenty ſhillings worth of goods, or rather with twelve or fourteen ſhillings worth inſtead of twenty, to pay them by ſix-pence or twelve-pence a-week; wherein if they fail to pay, they hurry them into a priſon, with great charge for arreſts and proceedings at law, which many times exceed the firſt debt; (which we hope will be in a great meaſure prevented by ſetting up a Court of Conſcience in the city of Weſtminſter and Borough of Southwark, as it is at preſent in the city of London); at which priſon they are ſure to lie till charity comes thither for the releaſe of poor priſoners, which they very well know will come at certain times of the year; and then if you meet with a kind jailor, or a creditor of any compaſſion, it is like you may get out your priſoner with ſome ſmall abatement, otherwiſe not: ſo that in effect moſt of thoſe monies that are carried to priſons, run either into the bailiffs or the jailors, or into the pawn-brokers or tally-mens pockets.

This I inſtance, not to hinder people from delivering perſons out of priſon (I wiſh there were many more ſo well-minded), but to provoke them to do all they can to keep them from coming thither; it being twice as great an act of charity, and much more for the benefit of any perſon, to keep him from falling and breaking his head, than to take him up and give him a plaſter; ſo to keep a poor man from going to priſon, is much greater charity than to help him out: and I heartily wiſh that this ſort of charity were more in practice both here and in other countries, where they tell you of prodigious numbers that are every year brought to their hoſpitals and charitable houſes, when it is much to be feared little care is taken to prevent that poverty, miſery, and neceſſity, that falls upon them; but is rather occaſioned from the badneſs of ſome laws, or from the want of good ones.

Methinks it were greatly to be wiſhed that care were taken to provide work for all our poor debtors and felons, that being caſt into priſon could not there keep themſelves without the charity of ſuch places. Nay, for our felons, I ſee no reaſon but they ſhould be made to labour, though they

could otherwiſe provide for themſelves; this would be a good means to prevent much of that wickedneſs which is practiſed in thoſe places.

It ſeems to me very unreaſonable that priſons ſhould be places of pleaſure, delight, and choice; yet ſome ſuch there are into which ſeveral perſons of good eſtates, but very bad conſciences, remove themſelves, on purpoſe to cheat their creditors, and to ſpend their own and other mens monies in ſloth and luxury, whilſt their poor creditors are fain to fare hardly, and many times to live in ſorrow and want. As theſe, therefore, ſhould be wholly ſuppreſſed on the one hand, ſo alſo thoſe little priſons about the town, which in ſome reſpects I may call little, becauſe the houſes are not big; by reaſon of which twenty or thirty ſhall be caſt into one room, and that none of the bigeſt; and alſo becauſe the actions are not great for which perſons are ſent thither, though it may be ſome of them have more commitments and diſcharges in a year than Newgate itſelf. Into ſome of theſe priſons I have known ſeveral perſons caſt for a debt of ten groats, and ſometimes for leſs; where, if the perſon continue but a night, his fees ſhall be thirteen ſhillings and ſixpence to the keeper and his company, beſides one ſhilling and ſixpence garniſh-money, three ſhillings for the writ, and five ſhillings for the arreſt, with ſome other charges. It is not very long ſince I had one of theſe jailors before the judges for taking unlawful fees, and other exorbitant practices; but before any thing was determined in the matter, the perſon made a rope and hanged himſelf. It is a moſt lamentable thing that theſe little priſons are not ſuppreſſed, or at leaſt regulated, and a table of fees ſet up both in them and all the priſons of England, that ſo all the poor people may know what they have to pay, and not be left to the mercy of a cruel jailor; who rather than he will abate any thing of his demands, will keep a poor wretch in priſon till he is almoſt ſtarved there, and his wife and children quite ſtarved at home. I do not lay this charge againſt them all, ſome I have known to be more compaſſionate; yet ſuch I have known alſo, that upon the leaſt diſpleaſure taken againſt a poor priſoner, have threatened to make dice of his bones before he would abate him a penny; and no doubt he would have been as good as his word. It is in theſe places that they eat up the poor of the land, as a man would eat bread. Neither are the jailors themſelves ſometimes more cruel than the poor people are one unto another, inſomuch that I have greatly wondered to ſee how violently they will proſecute one another; it being moſt certainly true which Solomon hath obſerved, *That when the poor oppreſſeth the poor, it is like a ſweeping rain that leaveth nothing behind it.* Much of which cruelty alſo would be prevented by ſetting up a court of conſcience in the out-parts of this city, as it is already in London, to which all perſons ſhould apply themſelves for any debt under forty ſhillings with very little charge to themſelves; by reaſon of which the creditor would be much more like to get his debt, and the debtor better able to

pay him, than when five times the value of the debt ſhall be run out in charges of a ſuit, as many times I have known it, to the utter ruin of the debtor and loſs of the creditor's money.

And as for thoſe night-walkers, and other idle and vicious perſons, that are ſent to Bridewell and other houſes of correction, it would be of great uſe that there were ſome law to confine them to ſuch places for a certain time, according to the nature of their offences, where they might be taught to work, and made able to get their own livings, both while they were there and when they came out, as it is in Holland and other places; whereas, for want of ſuch a law, theſe kind of people are no ſooner put into priſon but they are bailed out again, and if they do receive the correction of the houſe before they are diſcharged, it ſignifies very little. Neither can it reaſonably be thought but that they will follow their old trade again for want of a better; whereas, it is very probable, if they were taught a more honeſt way to get a living, they might leave off that wicked courſe of life which they had followed, and betake themſelves to that employment they had learned in priſon; or if they did not, if ever they came in again, it might be for a much longer time, which would make them at leiſure to repent their folly, and careful to avoid the like again: eſpecially if they were ſuffered to eat no more than they earned, and to do as much work for two-pence in the priſon as they might have three-pence for if they were out, which would alſo help to bear the charge of ſuch places; which, as I am informed, is the way taken beyond ſea, with great advantage to the perſons themſelves, who are hereby brought to ſobriety, and alſo to ſuch houſes. I have heard the worthy preſident and ſome of the governors of Bridewell, complain of the want of ſuch a law; having obſerved, that of the vaſt numbers that have been ſent thither, of which many have been corrected, yet few in compariſon have been amended; but as they have been ſoon diſcharged the houſe, ſo they have ſoon been brought thither again, without any alteration, except for the worſe. And how, indeed, can it otherwiſe be expected; theſe people having been brought up to nothing of labour when they were at liberty, nor taught nothing when they were under confinement by which they might provide for themſelves, will do it either by the old way they formerly took, or ſome other as bad, rather than ſtarve.

I humbly propoſe, therefore, that the women and young people might be taught to ſpin well upon the double wheel, or to weave lace, or the like; and that the men might be taught to beat hemp, dreſs flax, or comb wool, or elſe to weave linen-cloth, &c. and to be taught theſe ſo well, that they might find employment in ſome of theſe ways when they came out of priſon, which it is like many would rather take unto than run the hazard of ſuch another confinement, or by taking ſuch a courſe as would

bring them to the gallows. I myſelf have found ſome people very hardly brought to any employment at firſt, that by fair means have fallen to it; and the lazy habit being got off, have been more pleaſed with it than to live in idleneſs, and have ſo continued for ſome years. When this is effected, the perſon is in a manner out of danger; for I dare ſay, there hath been more loſt through idleneſs than any other vice whatſoever. When people have no work to do, or employment to follow, their firſt attempt is to run into debt of ſuch as will be ſo mad to truſt them; which not being able to pay, they are run into priſon; from whence, if they get out by the charity of others, their next trade is begging, or it may be ſtealing, for which they come to be hanged.

I therefore would adviſe all perſons who are ſo charitable as to releaſe poor perſons out of priſon, to take eſpecial care of thoſe who have a trade to follow, and a houſe to go unto when they went out; otherwiſe, it is very like the perſon is better where he is, and in leſs danger of doing miſchief either to himſelf or others: For, for want of theſe, the perſon being out of priſon, muſt either fall to begging, or that which is ſtill worſe, ſtealing, or cutting of purſes; inſomuch, that I have ſometimes known and heard often of perſons that have been taken out of one priſon for debt, and in a ſhort time thrown into another for felony. But that I may return to the buſineſs I was upon, to encourage the providing of work for the poor, by means of which they may be better able to provide neceſſaries for themſelves.

By ſo doing, all that have any bowels of compaſſion will find themſelves greatly eaſed in their minds, and their enjoyments of the good things of this world more ſweet and pleaſant to them, when they are not embittered with the ſad thoughts of the wants and neceſſities of their poor neighbours, who otherwiſe will have no way to relieve themſelves but wretched begging or wicked ſtealing.

Beſides, that they will be more ſecure in the enjoyment of their goods, by how much there will be fewer perſons that will have the temptation of extreme want to make them ſteal and be injurious unto others in their poſſeſſions.

And laſtly (to leave many things unſaid), all good Chriſtians who are ſerious in the profeſſion of religion, and hope of eternal life, muſt needs rejoice to have a hand in ſuch a work as this; becauſe nothing can more confirm our hope of having our portion among thoſe to whom our Lord Jeſus will at the great Day of Accounts ſay, *Come, ye bleſſed of my Father*, &c. than this, that we have relieved the hungry, thirſty, naked, and impriſoned; or have been a means to preſerve thoſe that otherwiſe would have fallen into thoſe miſeries and calamities.

POSTSCRIPT.

THUS, Sir, in compliance with your deſire, and the deſires of ſeveral other friends, I have expoſed my private thoughts to public view and cenſure; not doubting, but all well-minded and ingenuous perſons will accept of my good-will, though they may not be ſatisfied with my reaſons, nor yet in the management of the undertaking; which now for full five years hath been carried on with ſome difficulty and very great pains, as any one muſt imagine.

This, I am ſure, is the worſt that can be ſaid of it, That it hath not yet been brought to bear its own charges. The reaſon of which I have already given in part; however, this doth greatly ſatisfy me, that every penny that hath been loſt by it, either by myſelf or thoſe friends that have helped to bear it, hath been many times gained to the poor and to the public. Neither hath the loſs been ſo great as to affright any man that is able and hath a good mind, from undertaking the like; for in above four thouſand pound laid out the laſt year in the management of the whole affair, reckoning houſe-rent, ſervants wages, loſs by learners, with the intereſt of the money employed in the concern, there was not above two hundred pound loſt; one chief reaſon of which I muſt attribute to the kindneſs of ſeveral perſons that took off ſome of the commodities I made at the price they coſt me; and in particular to the Eaſt India and Guinea Company, who gave me encouragement to make their Allabas cloths and coarſe canvas for their pepper-bags, which in former times they uſe to have from other countries.

It is moſt certain, that unleſs a higher impoſt be laid upon foreign linen, it will not be poſſible for us at preſent to make it ſo cheap as it is brought over; for our poor people will neither work ſo hard nor can live ſo cheap, as generally the poor people of other places do: therefore we muſt be content to loſe ſomething in this way, or find ſome other to employ our poor people in, for employed they muſt be, as we tender the good of their ſouls or bodies. And I am of opinion, notwithſtanding all that I have yet heard or read to the contrary, that the ſetting up the linen manufacture would many ways be of great advantage to this nation, although, to provide againſt the worſt, I have made a good progreſs in the woollen manufacture alſo; inſomuch, that had not the price of wool ſo greatly advanced of late, I doubt not but by this time to have made one of one: but of this I ſhall give no further account at preſent.

All that I have more to ſay, is to requeſt ſuch perſons as have any kindneſs for my undertaking, to aſſiſt me therein, by taking off my hands ſome

of

of the cloth the poor people ſhall make, at the price it ſtands me in, tho' it be a little dearer than they might have cloth elſewhere. I have met with ſome perſons ſo charitable, that not having occaſion for any for their own uſe, have bought good quantities to give away to the poor, who have been as thankful for it as for money, there being many thouſands that have not above one ſhirt to their backs, and many that have none; inſomuch, that within leſs than two years I have given away to men, women, and children, above three thouſand, whoſe bodies have been greatly refreſhed by them: and I doubt not but many of them have bleſſed God for them, and prayed for their benefactors.

I have heard many people ſay, they would be ready to help ſuch as are induſtrious: Here are objects to their own hearts deſire, that do all they can, but cannot do enough to keep themſelves from want; inſomuch, that had I not been enabled to give many of them money as well as work, when either they or their children have fallen ſick, they might have periſhed thro' want.

If any one ſhall deſire thus to ſhow their charity to the poor, either by buying the cloth they make, or otherwiſe, what they ſhall freely contribute to their help and relief, ſhall be faithfully given to them by theirs and the poor's ſervant,

THO. FIRMIN.

BREAD

BREAD

FOR THE

POOR;

OR, A

METHOD ſhowing how the Poor may be Maintained and duly Provided for, in a far more Plentiful and yet Cheaper Manner than they now are, without Waſte or Want.

By R. D.

Fas modo quod teneam, ſine ſolicitudine Victim jam contentus oro. Mantuan.

(Exeter, originally printed by Samuel Darker, for Charles Yeo, John Pearce, and Philip Biſhop, 1698.)

THE CONTENTS.

THAT the poor rates of Devon, in a moderate computation, and as ſome (it may be as moſt) pariſhes pay conſequently unto 38,991 l. 13s. 5d. appears by the proportion under-mentioned, viz. by obſerving what one pariſh pays where the aſſeſſments to the poor are moderate, and not in proportion beyond other pariſhes; and how much the charge of the poor comes to in the country in proportion with that pariſh, being computed, as ſeveral taxes were riſen and proportioned in the reign of king Charles II. which is in the county 30,000 l. per annum more than they were 50 or 60 years ſince, and ſtill advance as faſt as ever.

That what the poor receive by begging, together with what they and others of the meaner ſort might get in the time they now ſpend idly, or worſe, comes to another ſuch or rather a greater ſum.

How an equivalent with a work-houſe may be had in every pariſh, without the charge of building or renting of a houſe. And how an equivalent with a ſtock may be alſo had in every pariſh for employing all the poor, without charge in raiſing, hazard in intruſting, or managery.

How, without the help of a new law, the poor in Devon may be all provided for and maintained in their reſpective pariſhes, in a far better and plentifuller manner than now they are, without begging, and for 30,000 l. per annum leſs in poor rates.

	l.	s.	d.	
Winckley pariſh	130	6	8	
Winckley hundred	162	18	4	
Sub-Diviſion	4115	15	9	
North Grand D.	12347	7	3	Proportionably.
3 Grand D.	37042	1	9	
20 Part on South	01949	11	8	
Devon	38991	13	5	

TO THE

Right Worſhipful his Majeſty's JUSTICES of the PEACE for the County of Devon.

THE great complaint of the poor (the greater of thoſe that maintain them), their conſtant increaſe, and the multitudes of beggars and idle vagabonds, to the great abuſe of the laws and ſcandal of the country, are cauſes ſufficient to excuſe an Eſſay, in order to a remedy, being the duty of parochial officers. And the ſlender attempts of ſome of great parts and quality, is not ſo much a diſcouragement, as grounds for a more vigorous onſet; their qualities for the moſt part being too great, and their notions too high, for ſo low a ſubject.

Our chronicles tell us, that about 800 years ſince, when after a long war the country abounded with thiefs and robbers, and other idle and diſorderly perſons; by king Alfred's dividing the kingdom into ſhires, hundreds, and tythings, a boy or girl might openly travel with a bag of gold or ſilver, and carry it ſafely all the country over. If neglect or the length of time have attracted ſome ruſt on the officers of tythings and pariſhes, yet there are many laws made ſince that time, which if duly put in execution, would ſoon rub it off; and whilſt the firſt inſtitution of one of them had ſuch good effects, their information would have much better, ſeeing it is eaſier to improve than invent.

Many, who ſeem well-wiſhers to an attempt for the better employing and relieving the poor, ſay there muſt be a ſtock, a large houſe, &c.; and withal do not forget to add, that the ſtock as well as houſe require a great charge in raiſing, hazard and care in intruſting and managing; and thence conclude they will abide by the harm they have, and not leap from the frying-pan to the fire. Indeed, were thoſe affairs duly conſidered, a good ſtock might be well employed that way; and yet I muſt crave leave to obſerve, that a bundle of cords is not ſo ſoon broken as one, nor a diſorderly crew, when brought together, ſo eaſily reformed as when ſingled out and ſeparated from contagious company.

In ſome places a public ſtock ſeems ſo neceſſary, that a fit proviſion for the poor cannot be made. But in Devon, and many other countries, there are tradeſmen in or near every pariſh who have ſtocks already, whereon they employ all that are willing to work and can; and would, for their own as well as the public intereſt, employ more, if more orderly perſons might be had. Therefore here is no great need of more ſtocks, but of reforming the looſer ſort, ſo as to make them honeſtly induſtrious; and how that may be done by legal diſcipline, without arbitrary ſeverity, is the deſign of this paper; which is humbly ſubmitted to your conſideration and correction, by the unworthieſt of your ſervants.

Jan. 27. 169⅞. R. D.

BREAD FOR THE POOR, &c.

Whoſoever takes the ſmall trouble of inſpecting the Poor accounts of a few pariſhes, may ſoon obſerve, That the charge of maintaining them in ſome places is, within 60 years laſt, advanced from 40s. to 40l. yearly; in others twice that ſum, and moſtwheres double, within 20 years laſt, and like to double again in a ſhort time; the poor rates of this county of Devon now amounting to 38,991l. 13s. and 5d. per annum, at the proportion that many pariſhes pay: and notwithſtanding ſuch advance in maintaining the poor, yet the wages they receive is greater than formerly, work more plentiful, and proviſions cheaper.

Where there is an effect there is a cauſe.

AS the effect is certain and viſible, in the exceſſive charge of maintaining the poor, ſo that there is a cauſe producing ſuch effect is as certain. Now what ſuch cauſe or cauſes are, how they may be prevented with a due proviſion made for the poor, as the law directs, and with leſs charge to the country, is next to be conſidered.

Firſt cauſe is, PROFUSENESS IN DIET.

IT is generally obſerved, that not only more ale and brandy is ſold than formerly in ſingle ale-houſes and brandy-ſhops, but the number of ſuch houſes and ſhops are alſo increaſed; that the money ſpent in ale and brandy, in ſmall country-ſhops and ale-houſes, amounts to a vaſt and almoſt incredible ſum, did not their payments for exciſe manifeſt it; that a very ſmall and inconſiderable part thereof is ſpent by gent. or travellers, or houſekeepers that pay rates to the King and poor; that ſuch as are maintained by pariſh-pay ſeldom drink any other than the ſtrongeſt ale-houſe beer, which at the rate they buy it coſt 50s. or 3l. a hogſhead; that they ſeldom eat any bread ſave what is made of the fineſt wheat-flower, ſold by common bakers.

Second cauſe is, IDLENESS.

PERSONS once receiving pariſh-pay preſently become idle, alleging the pariſh is bound to maintain them; and that in caſe they ſhould work, it would only favour a pariſh from whom they ſay they ſhall have no thanks: And not only themſelves, but the family to whom they belong, preſently become

idle too, finding that pariſh-pay, with the help of their clamour, their impoſing on the ignorance of ſome officers, deceiving the charity of others, and their threatening the timorous ſort with warrants from perſons in authority, a work of leſs trouble and more profit than daily labour.

Third cauſe is, GIVING EXCESSIVE PAY.

THE giving exceſſive pay to the poor hath greatly occaſioned their extravagant expences, and occaſioned idleneſs in them, and diſcouraged induſtry in others; the allowance commonly given to perſons maintained by a pariſh being three times as much as an honeſt labourer, who with his wife maintains three children, can afford to do: which many hundreds in the county do, and that in a decent manner; as may appear by the proportion next mentioned.

The common outgoing of a day-labourer in huſbandry computed.

As it is not ſtrange to ſee labourers to have four or five children a-piece, which they maintain by their labour, ſo it is common to ſee many maintain three children a-piece in a decent manner: Now admitting the wife maintains herſelf and one child, which is the moſt a woman can, and what few will do; what is needful to maintain himſelf and two children the huſband muſt bear; he muſt pay houſe-rent, which, in 20 s. yearly, is

weekly upwards of - -	4d.	0-
He muſt buy wood, which cannot well be leſs than -	3	0-
His own clothes, in 20 s. yearly, coſts weekly above -	4	*ob.*
His Sunday's diet 2d. and working-tools weekly 1d. -	3	0-
There remains of his week's wages to maintain two children, meat and drink, clothes, waſhing, attendance, &c. ſcarce above 1d. a-day for each child;	1s.	2d.
So weekly both coſt - -	2s.	5d.

His wages, or income.

Herein loſs of work through bad weather, holydays, &c. are not computed.

The charge of maintaining a young child, and of an infirm perſon.

Unable to labour, being near the ſame.

His full wages in ſome parts of the county is weekly 2s. 6d. in others 2s. 8d. in ſome places leſs; and where more is paid, houſe-rent and wood are dearer.

Fourth cauſe of the Chargeableneſs of the Poor.

Several of the poor have ordinarily one houſe a-piece entirely to themſelves, which would conveniently ſerve three or four of them; and the ſame fire, candle-light, and attendance that now ſerves but one, might ſerve

three or four: and in many particulars they might aſſiſt, help, and comfort one another; only their unwillingneſs to have their idleneſs, filching, and profuſeneſs in diet diſcovered, makes them extreme averſe againſt ſuch cohabiting.

Remedies, in purſuance of the Law, to prevent ſuch exceſſive Charges.

For remedy whereof it may be agreed, That the church-wardens and overſeers of the poor do as the law in this caſe directs; meet at a certain time and place once every month, to conſult on fit ways for employing and relieving the poor, and how the ſame may be done, that the neceſſities of the poor may be ſupplied and ſo limited, that they may neither ſpend their time idly that can labour, nor money profuſely.

Firſt remedy againſt PROFUSENESS IN DIET.

IN order thereunto it may be agreed not to pay them in money; that ſuch poor as cannot contribute towards their maintenance by their labour, be provided for in houſe-rent, meat, drink, clothes, and all other neceſſaries; that their clothes be all of one and the ſame colour, viz. blue, green, white, or other fit colour, diſtinct from others, with a badge on their upper garment, and of a diſtinct colour from their clothes; that their dwellings be all in town, that they may go to church, and their needs the better known unto and ſupplied by the officers; that their daily allowances be limited as to quantity, quality, weight, and meaſure, with due reſpect had to their ages, ſexes, and other circumſtances; and daily, and every meal delivered, and not weekly, nor in groſs, leſt they ſell it.

That a perſon be agreed with to provide and deliver the ſame by a ſealed braſs weight, and by a braſs meaſure; that each perſon that is able do attend, and come for the ſame at a certain time and place appointed, bringing a diſh and ſpoon provided by the pariſh, and marked with the pariſh-mark, the diſh to contain————and the like proviſions be ſent for by or ſent unto ſuch as cannot come to fetch it; that the perſon principally concerned in the managery hereof be often amongſt them, to reſtrain their mutinous and indecent diſcourſes, and to ſet ſome exemplary diſtinction on offenders, by making them to take and eat their allowance without doors, when the weather will permit, or otherwiſe: And alſo ſuch manager to take part and eat amongſt them, to prevent their cauſeleſs railing, and to ſee that the proviſions be every way fit for them, &c.

That ſuch as have moſt need be daily provided for, and others that have leſs, two or three days, or two or three meals in a week; that a bill of fare be agreed on, what each perſon is to have on each day, and at what hours, and by like agreement altered as occaſion ſhall be. The ſeveral prices agreed for, and the accounts between ſuch officer and provider balanced

once

once in a fortnight; this method not much differing from the ancient and preſent commendable practice.

In colleges, great mens houſes, hoſpitals, ſhips at ſea, ſoldiers in camps, and other the moſt civilized and beſt governed ſocieties, an omer for a day.

Second remedy againſt IDLENESS.

THAT due care be taken to employ all ſuch as by their labour can contribute towards their own maintenance: How a houſe, or an equivalent with a work-houſe, may be had in every pariſh, without the charge of building or renting: How a ſtock, or an equivalent with a ſtock, may be had for employing them, with an inconſiderable charge, and without the common charge of raiſing, hazard of intruſting, and care of managing a ſtock, is briefly demonſtrated, in a method peruſed and allowed of by the juſtices of the peace in their general ſeſſions for the county of Devon, and ſince printed; whereof more hereafter.

Third remedy againſt EXCESSIVE PAY.

THAT their allowance in quantity, kind, and value, be proportioned to what ſuch frugal and induſtrious perſons as are maintained by their labour and have families to provide for, can, and ordinarily do, afford themſelves and families.

Fourth remedy againſt keeping a ſingle HOUSE, FIRE, *and* CANDLE-LIGHT, *for one perſon, which might, without any annoyance, ſerve three or four (for that muſt be avoided), is before-mentioned.*

IF an overſeer of a family ſhould allot out and deliver a month's proviſion at once to his ſervants, it is ſtrange if there be not much waſte and want too in his houſe before the month is over; and being laughed at for his folly, would by ſuch way of managery leave a ſhort inventory to his executor. Every perſon concerned in truſts, either in offices for the public or for particular perſons, is by the obligation of juſtice, reaſon, and common honeſty, obliged to uſe at leaſt as much care, prudence, and integrity in matters wherein he is intruſted, as in his own proper concerns. And it is folly in an overſeer of a family not to make daily proviſion; and is it not much more ſo in an overſeer of a pariſh, who hath neither ſo charitable opinion, nor ſo eaſy an overſight of thoſe whom he is to overſee, as an overſeer of one family hath?

Beſides, many men receive relief in reſpect of their wives and children, and having got the money, ſoon ſpend it; leaving ſuch their families to their choice, either to beg for their own relief, or ſtarve; who dare not to

complain, and would be as well without pariſh-pay as ſuch having and never the near: whereas, were their pariſh-allowance daily, in ſuch manner as is herein propoſed, they would then have their daily bread, and every day an omer.

Having met with ſome objections, I ſhall inſert ſuch as are moſt material, and endeavour to anſwer them.

I. Objection. *Whether the uſual way of paying the poor in money may be altered?*

Anſ. I. When overſeers ſell their own goods, the Juſtices have often, for manifeſt reaſons, diſallowed it, otherwiſe they approve well of it.

II. Some poor, as young children, idiots, &c. are not to employ money, and therefore it is both reaſonable and neceſſary to provide for them ſome other way.

II. Obj. *Is, That the providing of diet is both chargeable and troubleſome?*

Anſ. Each perſon being limited what to have, and at what times, and the prices of each particular agreed for, the trouble cannot be great, admitting that the keeper of a ſmall ale-houſe is employed, and aſſigned to deliver each perſon his allowance daily by 11 o'clock, who are to come for it accordingly. He hath his order as to kinds, and his weights and meaſures ready for quantities, and the poor have theirs; ſo twenty may be diſpatched in a quarter of an hour, with almoſt as ſmall a trouble as the drawing twenty pots of ale: And is it not leſs trouble to make one fire than twenty? one going to mill, market, &c. than twenty? one of the poor may do it, being aſſigned neceſſaries for that purpoſe.

III. Obj. *Whilſt many poor inhabit in the ſeveral parts of the country pariſhes, how can ſuch have their diet in one place?*

Anſ. As many as live in or near the church town, or other-like village, may conveniently come at one place; ſuch as are in remote places, and are not too old to be removed, are too old to be reformed by this method, for old age is incurable; yet the perſons not like to be durable: As to ſuch as may be removed, the remedy is plain. Only it may be conſidered, that in caſe their fear of being removed will have as good or better effects than the doing it (as fear hath often better effects than puniſhments), their removal may be rather threatened than effected.

Beſides the greater number of the poor have only ſome ſmall contributions towards their maintenance, as ſix-pence or eight-pence per week: Now ſuch may have ſo much in value of ſuch houſehold bread as the day-labourers and poor houſekeepers uſe in their houſes, and may daily about twelve of the clock fetch ſo much as is allowed for one day, and no more, at ſome ſmall diſtance, in caſe they can come for it themſelves. This way of fetching it will reſtrain them from being vagabonds and begging their bread; for it is againſt their principles to beg near their own dwelling-

places, and they cannot go far abroad without loſing ſuch their pariſh-allowance.

Advantages in providing diet for the Poor.

I. Whereas the poor are in ſome places paid once in a fortnight, in ſome once a month; ſeldom one of them hath one penny left next day after receiving, ſo are forced to live on the credit of the next pay-day, and to buy dear, and loſe much in fetching. But by this means they are ſure of a competency every day, without loſs of time, delay, or hinderance, which are in truth conſiderable.

II. They will be reſtrained from begging, for none will give to them who are known to have their daily commons provided at home; and they cannot go far abroad without the hazard of loſing their pariſh-allowance at home for not coming for it in ſeaſon.

III. As it will be almoſt impoſſible that the poor ſhould want, having ſuch daily allowance, ſo it is as ſure they cannot waſte much; ſmall-beer and ſuch plain and wholeſome proviſion as the pariſh-officers are moſt likely to allow them, being cheaper as well as wholeſomer than the brandy, ſtrong-ale, and other like fare they commonly allow themſelves. And in caſe they are allowed a competency to carry home or to eat their fill, and carry off none, they cannot juſtly complain; the great complaint will be, from the good ale-wives, who will be forced to leave their trade when their beſt cuſtomers muſt leave them.

IV. The general antipathy the poor have againſt accepting relief this way, exceedingly contributes to the promoting its deſign, their calling theirs the *goal-crock*, *Bridewell-crock*, *pariſh-crock*, *goal-pottage*, *pariſh-pottage*, with like reproaches on the place and fare, will make many reſolve to live without it, and others as induſtrious to avoid it.

V. Though ſuch aſperſing terms are to be connived at, whilſt they only make it leſs fanciful to themſelves; yet if by ſuch reproaches they draw an odium on the employment of providing their proviſions, by making it more difficult or chargeable to get a victualler; then there is need of bye-laws fitted for this œconomy to reſtrain their raillery.

As whoever complains his fare is not good, or not well cooked, and if upon an inſpection by one houſekeeper choſen by the complainer and another by the victualler, it appear to be well, or if they reproach any of the overſeers or payers of the poor, then ſuch offender for five or ſix days, or until a formal ſubmiſſion be made, to have no butter to his bread, or no bread to his broth, or wear the badge a month or other like puniſhment, for this or other like offence, tending to the hindrance or charge of this domeſtic government.

As for the badges, amongſt other things, thoſe or the like may be obſerved.

That whoſoever receives pariſh-pay, or any contribution, is to expect to wear

wear the badge, that ſo the fear thereof may keep them ſubmiſſive and orderly; but the putting it on defaced, as to ſuch as are of civil demeanour, and whoſe poverty hath not been occaſioned by idleneſs, profuſeneſs, or other ill means, ſick perſons, children, and ſuch whoſe age or infirmities keep them within doors.

Thoſe not to be exempted from wearing the badge, viz.

Perſons of ſuch weak capacities as that they are accounted fools, not as a puniſhment to them, but to pleaſe their fancy with a fine new thing, all fools being pleaſed with ſuch, and ſo to make it leſs fanciful to others.

Next, whoever is guilty of begging, and is not neceſſitated thereunto, complainers to perſons in authority for more relief, if on hearing it appear they had no cauſe of complaint, abuſers of the pariſh-officers, or payers, or perſons concerned in providing their proviſions, and ſuch as do not ſubmiſſively and thankfully accept their pariſh-allowance.

Obj. *Another objection is, Why ſome ſhould wear the badges and others none?*

Anſ. To give the poor a direct anſwer to this queſtion, is to allow them a right of examining: If an apprentice aſk his maſter why he muſt wear cloth and his fellow-apprentice ſerge, or why his clothes differ in colour or faſhion from his fellow-apprentice? or if a groom or foot-boy aſk his maſter why his livery is red, and not blue, or differing in colour, cloth, or faſhion from other grooms or foot-boys? a maſter will ſcarce anſwer ſuch a queſtion unleſs it be with a cudgel, and thereby teach ſuch a ſaucy ſervant more gratitude and better manners. And if a maſter or overſeer of one family have ſuch an independent right in the paternal and domeſtic government thereof, ſhall a maſter or overſeer of many families (for ſo an overſeer of the poor is) have leſs power or not aſſert it? Such an examiner ſhould wear the badge a month the longer, and know it for a maxim, *That beggars muſt not be chooſers.* And thoſe that have ſpent their own ſtock as well as time profuſely, without any reſtraint, muſt not ſo diſpoſe of others.

Another Obj. *Is the obſtinacy and averſeneſs of many of the pariſhioners and payers to the poor againſt this method, as ſome will be ſure to be?*

Anſ. It is obſerved in the Preface to the Liturgy of the Church, that never any thing was ſo compoſed as to eſcape the reach of clamour and exception, much leſs can this; for thoſe clamourers, though they ſee with their own eyes, that by this means the poor have a conſtant, daily, and certain fit proviſion, and that it is morally, almoſt naturally, impoſſible that they ſhould want, to which they were always expoſed in the common way of relief; and withal know and ſee, that the obſtinate averſeneſs of the poor to receive relief, this way makes them both thrifty and induſtrious, ſo as to provide beforehand and maintain themſelves without it; yet ſtill ſome who are concerned in reaſon and intereſt to promote a method of this nature, will be prattling againſt it, and oppoſe it to the utmoſt, and will join

join with the inſolence of the poor, and rather than hinder will lead and encourage them in their aſperſions of it, and clamours againſt it.

Now it may be ſaid, What ſhall be done as to ſuch oppoſers?

Anſ. Sure, at the long-run, they deſerve a formal thanks; for if I am an overſeer or provider for the poor, and invite and make a fit proviſion for them, and by means of ſuch clamours and aſperſions my gueſts are kept away, I may by ſuch means have the leſs company, but the more cheer, or be at the leſs charge in providing.

And indeed nothing contributes more to the carrying on this method, ſo as to make the poor induſtrious, in order to maintain themſelves to live thriftily, and to provide for old age and ſickneſs. I ſay, nothing more promotes ſuch its deſign than ſuch oppoſers of it and clamours againſt it; for, though they ſeem to ſtop the current, unleſs their groundleſs clamour have in it more power to hinder than the laws and the authority of Juſtices of the Peace, and overſeers of the poor commiſſionated by the law, and acting according to law, have to promote it, which may well be reckoned a moral impoſſibility, the ſtream will break out and run the ſwifter. No arguments, how ſpecious ſoever, will convince ſome; and whilſt experience is the common baffler of ſpeculations, their obſtinacy or uncompliableneſs may meet with the more candid conſtruction. I ſhall, therefore, for their ſatisfaction, give one inſtance: The pariſhes of Sampford, C. and W. being both large and near each other, uſually for many years together paid a like number of rates; in the pariſh of S. the method hereby propoſed was practiſed two years, and for avoiding clamour (which every thing that is called new, though as old as Moſes, is apt to produce), the poor were in a more plentiful manner than formerly provided for in clothes; and in caſe any of them ſaid that their allowance in diet were not enough in quantity, they had then their fill; if any miſliked in quality, then the complainer was to call a fit houſekeeper to determine it; which if he or ſhe refuſed to call, was then at that time ſent away without it, as a juſt puniſhment for his or her muttering and ingratitude. In the laſt of the two years, there was this difference in the pariſh of W. where this method was not uſed, were paid full 23 rates, and yet often complaints made to the Juſtices for more. But in S. where this method was uſed, not full 11 rates and a half, and no ſuch complaints made as in W. And had I obſerved the payments of the poor in other neighbouring pariſhes wherein I was unconcerned, might probably have found them as much differing and advanced in proportion above S. as I ſaw W. to be; and had this method continued on in S. one year longer (which wanted not the encouragement of the Juſtices of the Peace and of the principal payers), would, as was reaſonably believed, have reduced them to 8 rates, and in a few years after to two.

Another Obj. *Is, That the former method for employing the moſt ungovernable of the poor is defective, ſuch as are bailiffs, tinkers, and other daring inſo-*

lent poor; for in country pariſhes there are no public work-houſes, and private men will not employ ſuch, who if alone will ſpoil their work, and if with others, will ſpoil their work and company too; and an honeſt country houſekeeper will as ſoon admit into his houſe one that is infected with the plague, as ſuch a reſolute diſorderly wretch.

Anſ. A crooked knife muſt have a crooked ſheath, and ſuch an ill-humoured workman ſhould have as untoward work aſſigned him by the overſeers; which may be to carry water in buckets from the lower end of ſome country village two or three hundred paces, or more, and therewith to fill a veſſel in the high-way; which done, to overturn it in the way ſo often as filled, and ſo to continue till he ſhows a willingneſs to get himſelf work, and in the mean time to have only ſome ſlender allowance in diet; and, in caſe of refuſal or neglect, ſent to the Bridewell, as the ſtatute of the 43 Eliz. in this caſe directs: Such a workman ſo employed will be ſure of overſeers enough to obſerve his demeanour; and though he be accounted ſhameleſs, will be ſoon aſhamed and weary of ſuch work, and get himſelf a maſter or be maſtered in Bridewell, as is before-mentioned, as often as he refuſeth or neglecteth ſuch his work.

The work-houſe in the city of Exeter is ſaid by ſome conſtantly to employ above 100 perſons, by others it is ſaid that not ſix are conſtantly employed therein; now both thoſe ſeeming contradictions are true.

It muſt by the way be conſidered, which is too well known, that in every town, how well-traded ſoever, many tradeſmen are out of work and deſtitute of employment; not for that the trade or place doth not afford employments ſufficient, but that ſuch deſtitute perſons have brought themſelves out of credit and work, either by their ſottiſh, careleſs, ſurly, or other ill demeanour. And ſuch being numerous, and ſome of them having families to provide for, would, as ſuch are apt to do, complain to the magiſtrates for work, or rather for relief from the overſeers; then to maintain them idle was a great charge, to promiſe them work a great difficulty: Thoſe that knew them not would not employ them, becauſe ſtrangers; thoſe that knew them, knew them too well to truſt their trade and ſtock in their hands, yet maintained they muſt, yea, will be. This inevitably drew on a great charge, and yet their mutinies a greater danger. But ſince the ſetting up this work-houſe, whereof the governor is ready provided to employ all that come, the magiſtrates are not now at a loſs how to anſwer ſuch complaints, but aſſign them to the maſter of the work-houſe for employments. And now thoſe careleſs, ſurly ſorts, find themſelves at a loſs, they muſt either humour or comply with the tradeſmen that have ſtocks, and ſerve them, or work in the common work-houſe, and ſubmit to that government; which though no priſon, is in common acceptation near a-kin to a Bridewell. Being reduced to this dilemma, they will chooſe the firſt, and rather comply with a maſter of their own chooſing than of the mayor's:

by this means it comes to paſs that the work-houſe, which doth not actually employ ſix perſons in it, doth yet virtually and effectually employ above one hundred. Such a work-houſe ſeems not attainable in country-pariſhes; but that which is equally advantageous, and may be called an *equivalent*, may be had in all places; with this difference, that the city work-houſe requires a ſtock and ſalary: in the ſtock there is a charge raiſing, and hazard in intruſting; but in this equivalent there is no ſuch charge or hazard; for men in huſbandry in the country, by giving them liſts to work round a pariſh, and others of trades to agree with a tradeſman to employ them in weaving, combing, ſpinning, and to aſſign them to work accordingly; and withal, to order them to give a weekly or other conſtant account at the pay-board, that they do work accordingly, or are otherwiſe daily employed in ſome honeſt labour, is every way as advantageous; for thoſe that are ſo employed, and the wages not being great, can be no damage to the employer of them. And the general averſeneſs and abhorrence of the poor, to go about with liſts and deſire work, and work according to ſuch appointments, and to give a conſtant account thereof, is altogether as effectual as a city work-houſe to make ſuch perſons to get work for themſelves; and their wages not being too large, the employers of them will be ſure to be at no loſs, and the willinger to employ them. And in caſe any men in trades, or women in ſpinning, ſpoil, detain, or embezzle, any of the wool or yarn delivered unto them, the owner, by making application to the two next Juſtices (an eaſy remedy), will get them to be publicly whipped, as the ſtat. 7 Jac. 7. doth direct, which they will prevent by making him ſatisfaction. But having formerly written more fully on this particular, with precedents for all proceedings relating thereunto, forbear herein to repeat the ſame.

Obj. *Another objection is, That this method will leſſen the exciſe.*

Anſ. This is, indeed, an exception of ſome moment: For, admitting ſuch to be poor, and like to be chargeable to pariſhes, as by the common conſtruction of the law, eſpecially of an act of Parliament made 14 Car. II. chap. 12. are ſo adjudged; and that the badge, how eaſy ſoever, and the pariſh-pot, how fat ſoever, will be accounted puniſhments, and no ſmall ones, and will ſcare them from idle expences, which may reaſonably be preſumed, and by experience hath appeared; and that thoſe perſons are the country ale-wives beſt and almoſt only cuſtomers; it is neceſſary to conſider what or how much ſuch loſs may be.

As for the purpoſe: In caſe I ſpend 1s. in an ale-houſe, what are the conſequences thereof to me or the public? As to myſelf, I have not only 1s. the leſs, for which I am no way the better, but have in ſpending thereof ſpent ſo much time, as, had it been employed in my huſbandry or profeſſion, would have gained me at leaſt 3d. and the public ſome way or other advantaged by my labour: Now that is loſt as well as 15d. in money and

time. On the other hand, the advantage thereby to the public cannot be more than the exciſe, which at moſt is not above 3d.; then muſt the deſtroying my health, which incapacitates me to ſerve the public, the waſting my time wherein I ſhould have ſerved the public, the beggaring myſelf and family, and many other public as well as private miſchiefs, occaſioned by ſottiſhneſs, muſt theſe be countenanced, or at leaſt connived at, for my being thus an advancer of the exciſe, in ſo ſmall a matter comparatively to the public, and my particular loſs thereby; whereas, had I kept to my proper profeſſion, I might have been as able and as eaſily could have contributed as many 15 pences in ready money to a public revenue, as now I do 3d. in exciſe by drinking of ale. Were it not much better that his Majeſty's proclamation, and the laws for ſuppreſſing debauchery and profaneneſs, were duly put in execution, that ſo the ſtreams of juſtice might cleanſe thoſe Augean ſtalls; we ſhould then ſeek the peopling, as now the depopulating of our neighbours, and Engliſhmen would then compute their wealth and ſubſtance like the patriarchs of old and foreigners at preſent, in the number of their ſervants, and largeneſs of their families. It is indeed conceived by ſome, that the great increaſe of the poor is occaſioned by other means than thoſe herein-mentioned.

I. Obj. *Is, That the number of the people is generally increaſed, and that the number of the poor are ſo too.* Which may receive this anſwer.

Anſ. Admitting they are increaſed, yet doubtleſs people increaſed in former ages as well as of late; and in other countries where are no poor rates, as well as in England where there are, yet in truth the number of people, ſave in trading-places, is little or not at all increaſed, and that in ſuch places of trade the ways of maintaining the poor is much more increaſed: And whilſt the wealth as well as ſtrength of other nations, conſiſt in the number of their people, why ſhould we value ourſelves or one another at a lower rate than mere Americans? As the glory of a king conſiſts in the number of his people, ſo doth the welfare of the people too.

Another imagination of the great increaſe of poor rates, is the diſſolution of abbeys, monaſteries, and other religious houſes; and it is withal affirmed, that poor's rates began not till then. But the error of this imagination is eaſily diſcovered; for there were laws made for providing for the poor long before that time; as 23d of Edw. III. chap. ult.; 34th Edw. III. chap. i.; 7th Rich. II. chap. vii.; 12th Rich. II. chap. v.; 11th Hen. VII. chap ii.; 19th Hen. VII. ch. xii.; and about five or ſix ſtatutes of King Hen. VIII. and ſome of them ordered pariſh-officers and rates; and though the payment was not obligatory, as now, yet poſſibly in thoſe times as effectual.

2. If the abbeys, &c. were diſſolved, yet the lands ſtill remained, and the huſbanding and manuring of them employed as many hands (the beſt way of relieving the poor), and might feed as many mouths when in lay-

mens

mens hands as in church-mens. And if, as ſome conceive, ſuch places were by their abuſe made nurſerys of idleneſs, and the dependence of many idle perſons, ſuch idleneſs contributed to the increaſe of the poor, and ſuch dependence concerned only ſome few, in compariſon of the poor of the kingdom in general.

3. In caſe the generality of the poor of the kingdom had depended on the charity of thoſe religious places for their ſubſiſtence, then the great want would immediately have enſued on their diſſolution, and the government would have been concerned to procure a ſpeedy remedy. But the ſtatute now in force, and the only compulſory law that hath been for payment of poor-rates, was above 60 years after abbeys, &c. being diſſolved, chiefly by two laws made, one in 27 Hen. VIII. 1537, another in 1540, and the law for poor-rates 43 Eliz. in 1601. And then, though all pariſhes were enabled to make rates, and owners of eſtates obliged to the payment, yet in many places no ſuch rates were made in 20, 30, or 40 years after; and when they were firſt made, and in many years after, the money ſo riſen was inconſiderable to the preſent charge.

But that which more than anſwers all this exception is, that whereas our wool in former ages was almoſt all tranſported and wrought up in foreign parts, now for the moſt part wrought at home; ſo that to ſay nothing of other countries, the ſearges ſold in Exeter market afford a greater benefit and ſubſiſtence to the poor than all the monaſteries and religious houſes in the kingdom did in former ages.

Another Obj. *Is, That whoſoever ſhall vigorouſly ſet on this or other like method, ſhall find he hath ſtirred a hornets neſt. The ale-wives, brandy-ſellers, hugſters, and regraters, and ſuch who by their ſmall pennards and worſe weights and meaſures, grate and regrate on the poor, with others who clamour merely for clamour's ſake, will be all alarmed; and whilſt the real grounds of their clamour is too ſcandalous to be inſiſted on, will pretend that their frenzy (which they call zeal) is on the poor's behalf, whom they in truth regard as flies do the ſores of a galled horſe,* dulcis odor lucri ex re qualibet; *but their fury ſeems to afford an argument for a vigorous going on, rather than a hindrance; for if the cauſe were not good, ſuch ill perſons would not oppoſe it.*

2. If they ſhow ſuch zeal for promoting their ſelfiſh, ſcandalous, petty gains, ſhall a perſon, whoſe deſigns are juſt and truly plauſible, and for the general good of his country, ſhow leſs zeal therein than ſuch ſcandalous wretches do in their ſelfiſh deſigns? Did ever a traveller in the midſt of his journey return back, only becauſe the dogs barked at him? And ſhall the rude noiſe and impertinent clamour of ſuch excrement of humanity (who exclude themſelves from being beneficial members of the public, by withdrawing their aſſiſtance from contributing to its welfare), obſtruct or cool an honeſt courage and well-fixed zeal in a matter of ſo great a concern? Shall laws and officers be neglected, the ſacred obligations of oaths

and truſts be violated, the public welfare be diſregarded, and all other obligations both human and divine, become invalid, merely becauſe oppoſed and barked at by a ſenſeleſs rabble? What is become of the virtue of former ages, when not a few chooſe it as the greateſt honour to die for their country's good, and is their motto (*Dulce & decorum pro patria mori*), not to be ſeen in mens practices, as well as in books and eſcutcheons. Indeed peace and quiet, whilſt they conſiſt with truth and juſtice, are very pleaſing; but to prefer an outward peace before an inward, or to equalize it with truth or juſtice, is beneath the quality of a man, and intolerably ſcandalous in a Chriſtian kingdom.

Beſides, while ſelf-intereſt is adored by thoſe who regard nothing elſe that becomes a party, and makes its claim; for if the public fail, private intereſt muſt fail too, and whether the public be in danger is worth the conſidering: if within one age the charge to the poor in rates be advanced four-fold, and ſo in this one county comes to 39,000 l. per annum, then the kingdom, according to the proportions obſerved in ſome former aſſeſſments, that charge is far more than one-and-twenty times ſo much, conſequently above 81,9000 l. per annum. Add to this, what they receive by begging, and what they might get in the time they now ſpend idly, or worſe, which few but will agree is more than the poor rates; ſo the ſame being but another ſuch ſum, and added to the former, makes up 1,638,000 l. per annum. Add to this, that which may be more than all the reſt, that notwithſtanding the great advantages of trade (of late years indeed not without ſome interruptions by war), that the charge to the poor, and their inſolent carriage, increaſeth faſter than ever; ſo that at this rate the whole rents and profits of all the lands in the kingdom will in a little time be ſwallowed up this way, and little or nothing will be left whereby to pay taxes for ſupport of the government, or for the competent ſubſiſtence of the proprietor. And in caſe thoſe new landlords, who are called poor, be not ſatisfied, they will not want Wat Taylors and Jack Straws to head them in taking diſtreſs; and in form of law, the diſtreſs and diſtreſſes found to take, lead, drive, carry away, &c. and detain and keep, and not only ſo, but to take poſſeſſion, and livery, and ſeizing of what they have been out of, and what they will ſay others have enjoyed long enough.

Thoſe who ſpeak plauſibly of former ages, talk what churches, colleges, hoſpitals were then built; and what other great acts of piety, charity, and magnificence, were then done. But in caſe the charge in maintaining the poor, which the preſent age is at beyond the former, and which, as it is manifeſt, might be ſaved, and the poor be provided for in a better and plentifuller manner than now they are, if that exceſſive charge were employed in ſuch and other like acts of piety, charity, and magnificence, as before are mentioned, more ſuch pious noble acts might be done in one year than were then in ſeven; or in caſe ſuch exceſſive charge were em-

ployed

ployed in building good ſhips, the ſtrength and glory of the kingdom, and other maritime affairs, the advantage to the public would be very great; or in caſe ſuch exceſſive charges were ſaved to the country, they already know what to do with it. Many good laws have been made to prevent the exportation of wool, which an antiquary ſeems to fancy to be the golden fleece, hinted in the hiſtory of Jaſon. The vaſt damage to the kingdom by ſuch exportation, and the benefit thereby to foreign countries, is eaſier known than prevented; yet in caſe the many thouſands of people of the meaner ſort that have not other fit employments, were employed in working up thereof, there would be none left to carry off, and conſequently the exporting thereof would be impoſſible as well as unlawful. Should the inundation of the ſea, or ſome mighty torrent, yearly ſweep off ſo much land of this county as is worth 1000 l. ſuch a waſte would juſtly be accounted a public as well as private loſs, and no ſmall one. And in caſe the preventing thereof were feaſible, attempts to that purpoſe would not be wanting.

The idleneſs and profuſe ways of living of the meaner ſort, wholly occaſioned through the neglect of officers, like a mighty torrent, hath of late years ſwept off at leaſt 20,000 l. per annum more than would, with the help of their labour, maintain them in a far better manner than now they are maintained, whoſe maintenance doth now coſt at leaſt that ſum yearly more than it did within 30 years laſt (and yet at that time the charge was double to what it was ſome years ſince the making the ſtatute by which the poor-rates are now made), being about 96 years ſince; now that which was done 30, 40, or 50 years ſince, and much within that time, and always before in all places without much care, ſkill, or difficulty, may with eaſe be practiſed again, eſpecially conſidering (what is before-mentioned) that employments for the poor are now much plentifuller and wages far greater than formerly. Indeed, thoſe who look for a ſudden remedy for a diſtemper ſo long in contracting, may meet with a diſappointment. Aged and impotent poor, by what means ſoever their poverty was occaſioned, muſt neither be ſtarved nor maintained in ſo ſcanty a manner as to be rather a lingering death than a fit maintenance; what was the occaſion of want in them may be prevented in others. One drop of water ſeaſonably applied, may quench that ſpark which otherwiſe might endanger a whole town; and he that ſhall in the firſt year's attempt, by due and fit employments, as well as fit allowances, only ſtem the tide and make ſome abatement of the charge, and but ſome reformation in their way of living, will in a few years, by a prudent managery, find the effects to exceed his expectation, and greater abatement in the charge of their maintenance in the next ſeven years than hath been advanced in twenty.

To ſatisfy the ſcruples of ſome, it is neceſſary, by the way, to anſwer one or two ſhort queſtions.

Obj. *Whether the overſeers are obliged by any law to employ or cauſe ſuch to be employed in work who are not actually chargeable unto them?*

Anſ. The act of parliament in this caſe is the rule in this caſe, and that gives plain directions to the overſeers of the poor what they are to do, and what penalty they incur in caſe they omit ſuch their duty. Firſt, They are injoined and required to employ and ſet on work, or cauſe to be employed or ſet on work, all ſuch poor of their pariſh, whether married or unmarried, as have no eſtates to maintain themſelves, nor ordinary and daily trade of life to get their living by. Where by the way obſerve, that leſt the word *all* ſhould not be conſtrued generally enough, the law adds other general words, &c. and ſays, all perſons whether married or unmarried; ſo it is plain that ſo far all perſons are included. Next, obſerve the following words, and ſee who are excepted out of this general rule, " which " have no eſtates to maintain themſelves, nor ordinary and daily trade of " life to get their living by;" ſo that unleſs the overſeers do know that a perſon hath an eſtate ſufficient to maintain him, or hath ſome ordinary and daily trade, which muſt be ſuch lawful employment wherein he is ordinarily and daily employed, otherwiſe it is to him no ordinary and daily trade; then by the plain words of the law they are to ſet him on work, or cauſe him to be duly employed. And in order that ſo neceſſary a duty may not be omitted, each church-warden and overſeer of the poor forfeits 20s. a month in caſe he or they omit or neglect their duty herein, as by the ſame ſtatute plainly appears; ſo that whether a perſon have relief or not relief from the pariſh is not at all material, for the law makes no ſuch diſtinction, *& ubi lex non diſtinguit ibi, non diſtinguendum eſt;* therefore none may be made. They ſhall employ all perſons, married or unmarried, and out of this general rule exempts none, ſave ſuch as have eſtates ſufficient to maintain themſelves, or an ordinary and daily trade to get their living by. And indeed were this one branch of this good law duly put in execution, there would be but ſmall uſe of other penal laws, moſt offences being the effects of idleneſs.

The next queſtion is made by the poor themſelves, *Whether they are obliged to work according to the order of the overſeers of the poor, in caſe they never had relief, and do not deſire work from them?*

As the law is plain that all perſons, married or unmarried, having no eſtates to maintain themſelves, are under the care of the overſeers to cauſe them to be conſtantly and duly employed; ſo it is no leſs plain that ſuch perſons are to work according to the appointments of ſuch overſeers: which if they neglect or refuſe, are for ſuch their neglect or refuſal to be ſent to the Bridewell, and whether or no they have relief is no way material; and if they ſay they want no work, it may ſhow they deſire to be idle, &c.

The law is the rule; and who are obliged to work according to the ap-

pointment of the overſeers, and who and only who are exempted, is before mentioned.

III. Queſtion. *Whether ſuch perſons ſo to be employed are obliged from time to time to give an account to the overſeers of the poor, at ſome convenient time and place, that they have wrought according to their appointment? And in caſe they are otherwiſe employed, whether that be a ſufficient excuſe?*

Anſ. In caſe I ſhould go about to prove, that a ſervant who is ſent of an errand by his maſter, or to tell his ſheep, or on other employment, and to return and give him an account of ſuch his ſervice at a time and place appointed, is obliged to give an account of his doing therein, I ſhould only ſay what every one well knows; the giving ſuch an account being the common known duty of every ſervant: And as every ſervant is bound by his own contract to ſerve his maſter, ſo ſuch as have no eſtates to maintain themſelves, nor ordinary and daily trades of life, are obliged by an act of parliament, which is a greater obligation than a private contract, to work according to the appointment of the overſeers, ſuch are no leſs obliged to give an account, that being an eſſential part of the work; and in caſe ſuch perſons be otherwiſe duly employed (which may not be believed, unleſs proved before the Juſtice of the Peace before whom the complaint is made againſt them), yet the allowing that for a good excuſe is a favour, and more than the ſtatute directs, and more than any particular maſter will allow his own ſervants, the doing one thing when they are commanded to do another.

IV. Queſtion. *How a perſon can be proſecuted for not working according to the appointment of the overſeers, ſeeing the complaint is negative, and the officers cannot be preſent to ſee whether ſuch perſons work according to his appointment or no?*

When a perſon is accuſed for committing a crime, the proof lies on the accuſer; but when for omitting a duty, the proof lies on the party accuſed. As for the purpoſe: In caſe a goal-keeper be charged for an eſcape, the accuſer is only to prove that the priſoner was delivered into his cuſtody with a lawful warrant, and it lies on the keeper to prove he hath him ſtill in his cuſtody, or elſe he will be adjudged guilty of the eſcape. Or if a conſtable, or other miniſterial officer, be accuſed for not executing a lawful warrant, the proof of the delivery of the warrant is what is required as a ſufficient proof againſt him, to oblige him to prove he hath done his utmoſt in the execution thereof. So in this caſe, if an overſeer of the poor do teſtify he hath aſſigned a perſon fit employment, it lies on the party accuſed to prove he hath wrought accordingly, or elſe he is liable for his omiſſion to be ſent to the Bridewell.

Indeed, let a perſon live as idly and diſorderly as he will, unleſs he do complain for relief, it is common not to hinder ſuch his ill courſes; and when he doth complain, then it may be to tell him, in caſe he had kept to his honeſt labour more, and frequented the ale-houſes leſs, he might have

main-

maintained himſelf in credit, and not been burdenſome to others. But his ſtrength being decayed, ſuch advice is like the "locking of the ſtable door when the horſe is ſtolen;" or like telling a dead man he might have lived temperate, and then have lived much longer; or like telling a thief on the gallows, that in caſe he had honeſtly followed his profeſſion, he might have done much good to his family and country, lived in good credit, and at laſt have died in a good old age. But now ſuch advice comes too late. Indeed ſuch a thief may reply, That in caſe the overſeers of the poor of his pariſh had duly diſcharged their duty in preventing his idle and ill courſes, as by the law they ought to have done, they might have prevented his evil life and ſhameful death. And indeed it may reflect back with much uneaſineſs and horror too. It is commonly ſaid, that "Silence gives conſent;" and he that by ſpeaking or doing may diſcharge his duty, and prevent an evil, and doth not prevent it, is guilty of the ill effects of ſuch his ſilence and omiſſion; according to that known ſacred truth, "He that can do good and doth it not, to him it is a ſin."

GIVING

GIVING ALMS NO CHARITY,

AND EMPLOYING THE

P O O R

A GRIEVANCE TO THE NATION;

BEING AN ESSAY UPON THIS GREAT QUESTION,

Whether Work-houſes, Corporations, and Houſes of Correction for EMPLOYING the POOR, as now practiſed in England; or Pariſh-ſtocks, as propoſed in a late Pamphlet, intitled *A Bill for the better Relief, Imployment, and Settlement of the Poor*, &c. are not miſchievous to the Nation, tending to the Deſtruction of our TRADE, and to encreaſe the number and miſery of the POOR?

ADDRESSED *to the* PARLIAMENT *of* ENGLAND.

(LONDON: Printed and ſold by the Bookſellers of London and Weſtminſter. 1704.)

To the KNIGHTS, CITIZENS, *and* BURGESSES *in* PARLIAMENT *aſſembled.*

GENTLEMEN,

HE that has truth and juſtice, and the intereſt of England in his deſign, can have nothing to fear from an Engliſh parliament.

This makes the author of theſe ſheets, however deſpicable in himſelf, apply to this Honourable Houſe, without any apology for the preſumption.

Truth, gentlemen, however meanly dreſſed, and in whatſoever bad company ſhe happens to come, was always entertained at your bar; and the Commons of England muſt ceaſe to act like themſelves, or, which is worſe, like their anceſtors, when they ceaſe to entertain any propoſal, that offers itſelf at their door, for the general good and advantage of the people they repreſent.

I willingly grant, that it is a crime in good manners to interrupt your more weighty councils, and diſturb your debates with empty nauſeous

 trifles

trifles in value or miſtaken ſchemes; and whoever ventures to addreſs you, ought to be well aſſured he is in the right, and that the matter ſuits the intent of your meeting, viz. *To diſpatch the weighty affairs of the kingdom.*

And as I have premiſed this, ſo I freely ſubmit to any cenſure this Honourable Aſſembly ſhall think I deſerve, if I have broke in upon either of theſe particulars.

I have but one petition to make with reſpect to the author, and that is, that no freedom of expreſſion which the arguments may oblige him to, may be conſtrued as a want of reſpect, and a breach of the due deference every Engliſhman owes to the repreſenting power of the nation.

It would be hard, that while I am honeſtly offering to your conſideration ſomething of moment for the general good, prejudice ſhould lay ſnares for the author, and private pique make him an offender for a word.

Without entering upon other parts of my character, it is enough to acquaint this Aſſembly that I am an Engliſh freeholder, and have by that a title to be concerned in the good of that community of which I am an unworthy member.

This Honourable Houſe is the repreſentative of all the freeholders of England; you are aſſembled for their good, you ſtudy their intereſt, you poſſeſs their hearts, and you hold the ſtrings of the general purſe.

To you they have recourſe for the redreſs of all their wrongs, and if at any time one of their body can offer to your aſſiſtance any fair, legal, honeſt, and rational propoſal for the public benefit, it was never known that ſuch a man was either rejected or diſcouraged.

And on this account I crave the liberty to aſſure you, that the author of this ſeeks no reward; to him it ſhall always be reward enough to have been capable of ſerving his native country, and honour enough to have offered ſomething for the public good worthy of conſideration in your Honourable Aſſembly.

Pauper ubique jacet, ſaid our famous Queen Elizabeth, when in her progreſs through the kingdom ſhe ſaw the vaſt throngs of the poor flocking to ſee and bleſs her; and the thought put her majeſty upon a continued ſtudy how to recover her people from that poverty, and make their labour more profitable to themſelves in particular, and the nation in general.

This was eaſy then to propoſe, for that many uſeful manufactures were made in foreign parts, which our people bought with Engliſh money, and imported for their uſe.

The Queen, who knew the wealth and vaſt numbers of people which the ſaid manufactures had brought to the neighbouring countries then under the king of Spain, the Dutch being not yet revolted, never left off endeavouring what ſhe happily brought to paſs, viz. the tranſplanting into England thoſe ſprings of riches and people.

She ſaw the Flemings prodigiouſly numerous; their cities ſtood thicker than

than her peoples villages in ſome parts; all ſorts of uſeful manufactures were found in their towns, and all their people were rich and buſy, no beggars, no idleneſs, and conſequently no want was to be ſeen among them.

She ſaw the fountain of all this wealth and workmanſhip, I mean the wool, was in her own hands; and Flanders became the ſeat of all theſe manufactures, not becauſe it was naturally richer and more populous than other countries, but becauſe it lay near England, and the ſtaple of the Engliſh wool, which was the foundation of all their wealth, was at Antwerp in the heart of that country.

From hence it may be ſaid of Flanders, it was not the riches and the number of people brought the manufactures into the Low Countries, but it was the manufactures brought the people thither; and multitudes of people make trade, trade make wealth, wealth builds cities, cities enrich the land round them, land enriched riſes in value, and the value of lands enriches the government.

Many projects were ſet on foot in England to erect the woollen manufacturer here, and in ſome places it had found encouragement before the days of this queen, eſpecially as to making of cloth; but ſtuffs, baize, ſaize, ſerges, and ſuch like wares, were yet wholly the work of the Flemings.

At laſt an opportunity offered perfectly unlooked for, viz. the perſecution of the Proteſtants, and introducing the Spaniſh Inquiſition into Flanders, with the tyranny of the Duke d'Alva.

It cannot be an ungrateful obſervation, here to take notice how tyranny and perſecution, the one an oppreſſion of property, the other of conſcience, always ruin trade, impoveriſh nations, depopulate countries, dethrone princes, and deſtroy peace.

When an Engliſhman reflects on it, he cannot without infinite ſatisfaction look up to Heaven and to this Honourable Houſe, *that* as the ſpring, *this* as the ſtream from and by which the felicity of this nation has obtained a pitch of glory ſuperior to all the people in the world.

Your councils eſpecially, when bleſt from Heaven, as now I truſt they are, with principles of unanimity and concord, can never fail to make trade flouriſh, war ſucceſsful, peace certain, wealth flowing, bleſſings probable, the Queen glorious, and the people happy.

Our unhappy neighbours of the Low Countries were the very reverſe of what we bleſs ourſelves for in you.

Their kings were tyrants, their governors perſecutors, their armies thieves and blood-hounds.

Their people divided, their councils confuſed, and their miſeries innumerable.

D'Alva the Spaniſh governor beſieged their cities, decimated the in-

habitants, murdered their nobility, proſcribed their princes, and executed 18,000 men by the hand of the hangman.

Conſcience was trampled under foot, religion and reformation hunted like a hare upon the mountains, the Inquiſition threatened, and foreign armies introduced.

Property fell a ſacrifice to abſolute power, the country was ravaged, the towns plundered, the rich confiſcated, the poor ſtarved, trade interrupted, and the tenth penny demanded.

The conſequence of this was, as in all tyrannies and perſecutions it is, the people fled and ſcattered themſelves in their neighbours countries, trade languiſhed, manufactures went abroad and never returned, confuſion reigned, and poverty ſucceeded.

The multitude that remained, puſhed to all extremities, were forced to obey the voice of nature, and in their own juſt defence to take arms againſt their governors.

Deſtruction itſelf has its uſes in the world; the aſhes of one city rebuilds another, and God Almighty, who never acts in vain, brought the wealth of England and the power of Holland into the world from the ruin of the Flemiſh liberty.

The Dutch in defence of their liberty revolted, renounced their tyrant prince, and, proſpered by Heaven and the aſſiſtance of England, erected the greateſt common-wealth in the world.

Innumerable obſervations would flow from this part of the preſent ſubject; but brevity is my ſtudy. I am not teaching, for I know who I ſpeak to, but relating and obſerving the connection of cauſes, and the wonderous births which lay then in the womb of Providence, and are ſince come to life.

Particularly how, Heaven-directed, the oppreſſion and tyranny of the poor ſhould be the wheel to turn over the great machine of trade from Flanders into England:

And how the perſecution and cruelty of the Spaniards againſt religion, ſhould be directed by the ſecret over-ruling hand, to be the foundation of a people and a body that ſhould, in ages then to come, be one of the chief bulwarks of that very liberty and religion they ſought to deſtroy.

In this general ruin of trade and liberty, England made a gain of what ſhe never yet loſt, and of what ſhe has ſince increaſed to an inconceivable magnitude.

As d'Alva worried the poor Flemings, the Queen of England entertained them, cheriſhed them, invited them, encouraged them.

Thouſands of innocent people fled from all parts from the fury of this mercileſs man; and as England, to her honour, has always been the ſanctuary of her diſtreſſed neighbours, ſo now ſhe was ſo to her ſpecial and particular profit.

The

The Queen, who ſaw the opportunity put into her hands which ſhe had ſo long wiſhed for, not only received kindly the exiled Flemings, but invited over all that would come; promiſing them all poſſible encouragement, privileges and freedom of her ports, and the like.

This brought over a vaſt multitude of Flemings, Walloons, and Dutch, who with their whole families ſettled at Norwich, at Ipſwich, Colcheſter, Canterbury, Exeter, and the like. From theſe came the Walloon church at Canterbury, and the Dutch churches, Norwich, Colcheſter, and Yarmouth: from hence came the true-born Engliſh families at thoſe places with foreign names, as the DeVinks at Norwich, the Rebows at Colcheſter, the Papilons, &c. at Canterbury; families to whom this nation are much in debt for the firſt planting thoſe manufactures, from which we have ſince raiſed the greateſt trades in the world.

This wiſe Queen knew, that number of inhabitants are the wealth and ſtrength of a nation; ſhe was far from that opinion we have of late ſhown too much of, in complaining that foreigners came to take the bread out of our mouths, and ill-treating on that account the French Proteſtants who fled hither for refuge in the late perſecution.

Some have ſaid that above 50,000 of them ſettled here, and would have made it a grievance; though without doubt it is eaſy to make it appear, that 500,000 more would be both uſeful and profitable to this nation.

Upon the ſettling of theſe foreigners, the ſcale of trade viſibly turned both here and in Flanders.

The Flemings taught our women and children to ſpin, the youth to weave; the men entered the loom to labour inſtead of going abroad to ſeek their fortunes by the war; the ſeveral trades of baize at Colcheſter, ſaize and perpets at Sudbury, Ipſwich, &c. ſtuffs at Norwich, ſerges at Exeter, ſilks at Canterbury, and the like, began to flouriſh. All the counties round felt the profit; the poor were ſet to work, the traders gained wealth, and multitudes of people flocked to the ſeveral parts where theſe manufactures were erected for employment; and the growth of England, both in trade, wealth, and people ſince that time, as it is well known to this Honourable Houſe: ſo the cauſes of it appear to be plainly the introducing of theſe manufactures, and nothing elſe.

Nor was the gain made here by it more viſible than the loſs to the Flemings from hence, and not, as is vainly ſuggeſted, from the building the Dutch fort of Lillo on the Scheld, came the decay of that flouriſhing city of Antwerp. From hence it is plain the Flemings, an induſtrious nation, finding their trade ruined at once, turned their hands to other things, as making of lace, linen, and the like, and the Dutch to the ſea-affairs and fiſhing.

From hence they become poor, thin of people, and weak in trade; the flux both of their wealth and trade running wholly into England.

I humbly crave leave to ſay this long introduction ſhall not be thought uſeleſs, when I ſhall bring it home by the proceſs of theſe papers to the ſubject now in hand, viz. The providing for and employing the poor.

Since the times of Queen Elizabeth this nation has gone on to a prodigy of trade, of which the encreaſe of our cuſtoms from 400,000 crowns to two millions of pounds ſterling *per annum*, is a demonſtration beyond the power of argument; and that this whole encreaſe depends upon, and is principally occaſioned by the encreaſe of our manufacturers, is ſo plain, I ſhall not take up any room here to make it out.

Having thus given an account how we came to be a rich, flouriſhing, and populous nation, I crave leave, as conciſely as I can, to examine how we came to be poor again, if it muſt be granted that we are ſo.

By poor here, I humbly deſire to be underſtood, not that we are a poor nation in general; I ſhould undervalue the bounty of Heaven to England, and act with leſs underſtanding than moſt men are maſters of, if I ſhould not own, that in general we are as rich a nation as any in the world; but by poor, I mean burdened with a crowd of clamouring, unemployed, unprovided-for poor; people who make the nation uneaſy, burden the rich, clog our pariſhes, and make themſelves worthy of laws, and peculiar management to diſpoſe of and direct them. How theſe came to be thus is the queſtion.

And firſt, I humbly crave leave to lay theſe heads down as fundamental maxims, which I am ready at any time to defend and make out.

1. *There is in England more labour than hands to perform it, and conſequently a want of people, not of employment.*
2. *No man in England, of ſound limbs and ſenſes, can be poor merely for want of work.*
3. *All our workhouſes, corporations, and charities for employing the poor and ſetting them to work, as now they are employed, or any acts of parliament to impower overſeers of pariſhes, or pariſhes themſelves, to employ the poor, except as ſhall be hereafter excepted, are and will be public nuiſances, miſchiefs to the nation, which ſerve to the ruin of families and the encreaſe of the poor.*
4. *That it is a regulation of the poor that is wanted in England, not a ſetting them to work.*

If after theſe things are made out, I am inquired of what this regulation ſhould be? I am no more at a loſs to lay it down than I am to affirm what is above; and ſhall always be ready, when called to it, to make ſuch a propoſal to this Honourable Houſe, as with their concurrence ſhall for ever put a ſtop to poverty and beggery, pariſh-charges, aſſeſſments, and the like in this nation.

If ſuch offers as theſe ſhall be ſlighted and rejected, I have the ſatisfaction of

of having diſcharged my duty; and the conſequence will be, that complaining will be continued in our ſtreets.

It is my misfortune, that while I ſtudy to make every head ſo conciſe, as becomes me in things to be brought before ſo honourable and auguſt an Aſſembly, I am obliged to be ſhort upon heads that in their own nature would very well admit of particular volumes to explain them.

1. I affirm, *That in England there is more labour than hands to perform it.* This I prove,

1*ſt*, From the dearneſs of wages; which in England outgoes all nations in the world: and I know no greater demonſtration in trade. Wages, like exchanges, riſe and fall as the remitters and drawers, the employers and the workmen, balance one another.

The employers are the remitters, the workmen are the drawers; if there are more employers than workmen, the price of wages muſt riſe, becauſe the employer wants that work to be done more than the poor man wants to do it: if there are more workmen than employers, the price of labour falls; becauſe the poor man wants his wages more than the employer wants to have his buſineſs done.

Trade, like all nature, moſt obſequiouſly obeys the great law of cauſe and conſequence: and this is the occaſion why even all the greateſt articles of trade follow, and as it were pay homage to this ſeemingly minute and inconſiderable thing, *The poor man's labour.*

I omit, with ſome pain, the many very uſeful thoughts that occur on this head, to preſerve the brevity I owe to the dignity of that Aſſembly I am writing to. But I cannot but note how from hence it appears, that the glory, the ſtrength, the riches, the trade, and all that is valuable in a nation as to its figure in the world, depends upon the number of its people, be they never ſo mean and poor. The conſumption of manufactures increaſes the manufacturers; the number of manufacturers increaſes the conſumption; proviſions are conſumed to feed them, land improved, and more hands employed to furniſh proviſion. All the wealth of the nation, and all the trade is produced by numbers of people: but of this by the way.

The price of wages not only determines the difference between the employer and the workman, but it rules the rate of every market. If wages grows high, proviſions riſe in proportion; and I humbly conceive it to be a miſtake in thoſe people, who ſay labour in ſuch parts of England is cheap, becauſe proviſions are cheap. But it is plain proviſions are cheap there becauſe labour is cheap; and labour is cheaper in thoſe parts than others, becauſe being remoter from London, there is not that extraordinary diſproportion between the work and the number of hands: there are more hands, and conſequently labour cheaper.

It is plain to an obſerving eye, that there is an equal plenty of proviſions in ſeveral of our ſouth and weſtern counties, as in Yorkſhire, and rather a greater :

greater: and I believe I could make it out, that a poor labouring man may live as cheap in Kent or Suſſex as in the biſhoprick of Durham; and yet in Kent a poor man ſhall earn 7s. 9s. 10s. a week, and in the north 4s. or perhaps leſs. The difference is plain in this, that in Kent there is a greater want of people, in proportion to the work there, than in the north.

And this, on the other hand, makes the people of our northern countries ſpread themſelves ſo much to the ſouth, where trade, war, and the ſea carrying off ſo many, there is a greater want of hands.

And yet it is plain there is labour for the hands which remain in the north, or elſe the country would be depopulated, and the people come all away to the ſouth to ſeek work: and even in Yorkſhire, where labour is cheapeſt, the people can gain more by their labour than in any of the manufacturing countries of Germany, Italy, or France, and live much better.

If there was one poor man in England more than there was work to employ, either ſomebody elſe muſt ſtand ſtill for him, or he muſt be ſtarved: if another man ſtands ſtill for him, he wants a day's work, and goes to ſeek it, and by conſequence ſupplants another, and this a third; and this contention brings it to this: No, ſays the poor man, that is like to be put out of his work, rather than that man ſhall come in, I'll do it cheaper; nay, ſays the other, but I'll do it cheaper than you: and thus one poor man wanting but a day's work, would bring down the price of labour in a whole nation; for the man cannot ſtarve, and will work for any thing rather than want it.

It may be objected here, This is contradicted by our number of beggars.

I am ſorry to ſay I am obliged here to call begging an employment, ſince it is plain, if there is more work than hands to perform it, no man that has his limbs and his ſenſes need to beg; and thoſe that have not, ought to be put into a condition not to want it.

So that begging is a mere ſcandal in the general; in the able it is a ſcandal upon their induſtry; and in the impotent it is a ſcandal upon the country.

Nay, the begging, as now practiſed, is a ſcandal upon our charity, and perhaps the foundation of all our preſent grievance. How can it be poſſible, that any man or woman, who being ſound in body and mind, may, as it is apparent they may, have wages for their work, ſhould be ſo baſe, ſo meanly ſpirited, as to beg an alms for God-ſake? Truly the ſcandal lies on our charity; and people have ſuch a notion in England of being pitiful and charitable, that they encourage vagrants, and by a miſtaken zeal do more harm than good.

This is a large ſcene, and much might be ſaid upon it; I ſhall abridge it as much as poſſible. The poverty of England does not lie among the cra-

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ving beggars, but among poor families, where the children are numerous, and where death or ſickneſs has deprived them of the labour of the father; theſe are the houſes that the ſons and daughters of charity, if they would order it well, ſhould ſeek out and relieve. An alms ill-directed may be charity to the particular perſon, but becomes an injury to the public, and no charity to the nation. As for the craving poor, I am perſuaded I do them no wrong when I ſay, that if they were incorporated they would be the richeſt ſociety in the nation: and the reaſon why ſo many pretend to want work is, that they can live ſo well with the pretence of wantiug work, they would be mad to leave it and work in earneſt. And I affirm of my own knowledge, when I have wanted a man for labouring work, and offered 9s. per week to ſtrolling fellows at my door, they have frequently told me to my face they could get more a-begging; and I once ſet a luſty fellow in the ſtocks for making the experiment.

I ſhall in its proper place bring this to a method of trial, ſince nothing but demonſtration will affect us; it is an eaſy matter to prevent begging in England, and yet to maintain all our impotent poor at far leſs charge to the pariſhes than they now are obliged to be at.

When Queen Elizabeth had gained her point as to manufactories in England, ſhe had fairly laid the foundation; ſhe thereby found out the way how every family might live upon their own labour. Like a wiſe princeſs, ſhe knew it would be hard to force people to work when there was nothing for them to turn their hands to: But as ſoon as ſhe had broght the matter to bear, and there was work for every body that had no mind to ſtarve, then ſhe applied herſelf to make laws to oblige the people to do this work, and to puniſh vagrants, and make every one live by their own labour. All her ſucceſſors followed this laudible example; and from hence came all thoſe laws againſt ſturdy beggars, vagabonds, ſtrollers, &c. which, had they ſeverely been put in execution by our magiſtrates, it is preſumed theſe vagrant poor had not ſo increaſed upon us as they have.

And it ſeems ſtrange to me from what juſt ground we proceed now upon other methods, and fancy that it is now our buſineſs to find them work, and to employ them rather than to oblige them to find themſelves work and go about it.

From this miſtaken notion come all our work-houſes and corporations; and the ſame error, with ſubmiſſion, I preſume, was the birth of this bill now depending, which enables every pariſh to erect the woollen manufacture within itſelf for the employing their own poor.

It is the miſtake of this part of the bill only which I am inquiring into, and which I endeavour to ſet in a true light.

In all the parliaments ſince the Revolution this matter has been before them; and I am juſtified in this attempt by the Houſe of Commons having frequently appointed committees to receive propoſals upon this head.

As my propoſal is general, I preſume to offer it to the general body of the Houſe: if I am commanded to explain any part of it, I am ready to do any thing that may be ſerviceable to this great and noble deſign.

As the former Houſes of Commons gave all poſſible encouragement to ſuch as could offer, or but pretend to offer, at this needful thing; ſo the imperfect eſſays of ſeveral, whether for private or public benefit. I do not attempt to determine which have ſince been made, and which have obtained the powers and conditions they have deſired, have by all their effects demonſtrated the weakneſs of their deſign; and that they either underſtood not the diſeaſe, or knew not the proper cure for it.

The imperfection of all theſe attempts is acknowledged, not only in the preamble of this act of parliament, but even in the thing, in that there is yet occaſion for any new law.

And having ſurveyed, not the neceſſity of a new act, but the contents of the act which has been propoſed as a remedy in this caſe; I cannot but offer my objections againſt the ſufficiency of the propoſal, and leave it to the conſideration of this wiſe Aſſembly, and of the whole nation.

I humbly hope the learned gentleman under whoſe direction this law is now to proceed, and by whoſe order it has been printed, will not think himſelf perſonally concerned in this caſe; his endeavours to promote ſo good a work as the relief, employment, and ſettlement of the poor, merit the thanks and acknowledgement of the whole nation; and no man ſhall be more ready to pay his ſhare of that debt to him than myſelf: But if his ſcheme happen to be ſomething ſuperficial; if he comes among the number of thoſe who have not ſearched this wound to the bottom; if the methods propoſed are not ſuch as will either anſwer his own deſigns or the nation's; I cannot think myſelf obliged to diſpenſe with my duty to the public good to preſerve a perſonal value for his judgment, though the gentleman's merit be extraordinary.

Wherefore, as in all the ſchemes I have ſeen laid for the poor, and in this act now before your Honourable Houſe, the general thought of the propoſers runs upon the employing the poor by work-houſes, corporations, houſes of correction, and the like; and that I think it plain to be ſeen that thoſe propoſals come vaſtly ſhort of the main deſign; theſe ſheets are humbly laid before you, as well to make good what is alleged, viz. that all theſe work-houſes, &c. tend to the increaſe, and not to the relief, of the poor, as to make an humble tender of mean, plain, but, I hope, rational propoſals, for the more effectual cure of this grand diſeaſe.

In order to proceed to this great challenge, I humbly deſire the bills already paſſed may be reviewed, the practice of our corporation work-houſes, and the contents of this propoſed act, examined.

In all theſe it will appear, that the method chiefly propoſed for the em-

ployment of our poor, is by ſetting them to work on the ſeveral manufactures before mentioned, as ſpinning, weaving, and manufacturing our Engliſh wool.

All our work-houſes lately erected in England are in general thus employed; for which, without enumerating particulars, I humbly appeal to the knowledge of the ſeveral members of this Honourable Houſe in their reſpective towns where ſuch corporations have been erected.

In the preſent act now preparing, as printed by direction of a member of this Honourable Houſe, it appears, "That, in order to ſet the poor to work, it ſhall be lawful for the overſeers of every town, or of one or more towns joined together, to occupy any trade, myſtery, &c. and raiſe ſtocks for the carrying them on for the ſetting the poor at work, and for the purchaſing wool, iron, hemp, flax, thread, or other materials for that purpoſe." *Vide* the act publiſhed by Sir Humphry Mackworth.

And that charities given ſo and ſo, and not exceeding 200l. *per annum* for this purpoſe, ſhall be incorporated of courſe for thoſe ends.

In order now to come to the caſe in hand, it is neceſſary to premiſe, that the thing now in debate is not the poor of this or that particular town. The Houſe of Commons are acting like themſelves; as they are the repreſentatives of all the commons of England, it is the care of all the poor of England which lies before them, not of this or that particular body of the poor.

In proportion to this great work, I am to be underſtood, that theſe work-houſes, houſes of correction, and ſtocks to employ the poor, may be granted to leſſen the poor in this or that particular part of England: and we are particularly told of that at Briſtol, that it has been ſuch a terror to the beggars, that none of the ſtrolling crew will come near the city. But all this allowed in general, it will be felt in the main, and the end will be an increaſe of our poor.

1. The manufactures that theſe gentlemen employ the poor upon, are all ſuch as are before exerciſed in England.

2. They are all ſuch as are managed to a full extent: and the preſent accidents of war and foreign interruption of trade conſidered rather beyond the vent of them than under it.

Suppoſe now a work-houſe for employment of poor children ſets them to ſpinning of worſted. For every ſkein of worſted theſe poor children ſpin, there muſt be a ſkein the leſs ſpun by ſome poor family or perſon that ſpun it before; ſuppoſe the manufacture of making baize to be erected in Biſhopſgate-ſtreet, unleſs the makers of theſe baizes can at the ſame time find out a trade or conſumption for more baize than were made before. For every piece of baize ſo made in London, there muſt be a piece the leſs made at Colcheſter.

I humbly appeal to the Honourable Houſe of Commons what this may be called; and, with ſubmiſſion, I think it is nothing at all to employing the poor, ſince it is only the tranſpoſing manufacture from Colcheſter to London, and taking the bread out of the mouths of the poor of Eſſex to put it into the mouths of the poor of Middleſex.

If theſe worthy gentlemen, who ſhow themſelves ſo commendably forward to relieve and employ the poor, will find out ſome new trade, ſome new market, where the goods they make ſhall be ſold, where none of the ſame goods were ſold before; if they will ſend them to any place where they ſhall not interfere with the reſt of that manufacture, or with ſome other made in England; then indeed they will do ſomething worthy of themſelves, and they may employ the poor to the ſame glorious advantage as Queen Elizabeth did, to whom this nation, as a trading country, owes its peculiar greatneſs.

If theſe gentlemen could eſtabliſh a trade to Muſcovy for Engliſh ſerges, or obtain an order from the Czar, that all his ſubjects ſhould wear ſtockings who wore none before, every poor child's labour in ſpinning and knitting thoſe ſtockings, and all the wool in them, would be clear gain to the nation, and the general ſtock would be improved by it; becauſe all the growth of our country, and all the labour of a perſon who was idle before, is ſo much clear gain to the general ſtock.

If they will employ the poor in ſome manufacture which was not made in England before, or not bought with ſome manufacture made here before, then they offer at ſomething extraordinary.

But to ſet poor people at work on the ſame thing which other poor people were employed on before, and at the ſame time to increaſe the conſumption, is giving to one what you take away from another; enriching one poor man to ſtarve another, putting a vagabond into an honeſt man's employment, and putting his diligence on the tenters to find out ſome other work to maintain his family.

As this is not at all profitable, ſo, with ſubmiſſion for the expreſſion, I cannot ſay it is honeſt; becauſe it is tranſplanting and carrying the poor peoples lawful employment from the place where was their lawful ſettlement; and the hardſhip of this our law conſidered is intolerable. For example:

The manufacture of making baize is now eſtabliſhed at Colcheſter in Eſſex; ſuppoſe it ſhould be attempted to be erected in Middleſex, as a certain worthy and wealthy gentleman near Hackney once propoſed, it may be ſuppoſed, if you will grant the ſkill in working the ſame, and the wages the ſame, that they muſt be made cheaper in Middleſex than in Eſſex; and cheapneſs certainly will make the merchant buy here rather than there: and ſo in time all the baize making at Colcheſter dies, and the ſtaple for that commodity is removed ro London.

What muſt the poor of Colcheſter do? There they buy a parochial ſettlement; thoſe that have numerous families cannot follow the manufacture and come up to London, for our parochial laws impower the churchwardens to refuſe them a ſettlement; ſo that they are confined to their own country, and the bread taken out of their mouths; and all this to feed vagabonds, and to ſet them to work, who by their choice would be idle, and who merit the correction of the law.

There is another grievance which I ſhall endeavour to touch at, which every man that wiſhes well to the poor does not foreſee; and which, with humble ſubmiſſion to the gentlemen that contrived this act, I ſee no notice taken of.

There are arcanas in trade, which though they are the natural conſequences of time and caſual circumſtances, are yet become now ſo eſſential to the public benefit, that to alter or diſorder them, would be an irreparable damage to the public.

I ſhall explain myſelf as conciſely as I can.

The manufactures of England are happily ſettled in different corners of the kingdom, from whence they are mutually conveyed by a circulation of trade to London by wholeſale, like the blood to the heart, and from thence diſperſe in leſſer quantities to the other parts of the kingdom by retail. For example:

Serges are made at Exeter, Taunton, &c.; ſtuffs at Norwich; baize, ſaize, ſhalloons, &c. at Colcheſter, Bocking, Sudbury, and parts adjacent; fine cloth in Somerſet, Wilts, Glouceſter, and Worceſterſhire; courſe cloth in Yorkſhire, Kent, Surry, &c.; druggets at Farnham, Newbury, &c. All theſe ſend up the groſs of their quantity to London, and receive each others ſorts in retail for their own uſe again. Norwich buys Exeter ſerges, Exeter buys Norwich ſtuffs; all at London: Yorkſhire buys fine cloths, and Glouceſter courſe; ſtill at London: and the like of a vaſt variety of our manufactures.

By this exchange of our manufactures, abundance of trading families are maintained by the carriage and recarriage of goods; vaſt numbers of men and cattle are employed, and numbers of inholders, victuallers, and their dependencies ſubſiſted.

And on this account I cannot but obſerve to your Honours, and it is well worth your conſideration, that the already tranſpoſing a vaſt woollen manufacture from ſeveral parts of England to London, is a manifeſt detriment to trade in general; the ſeveral woollen goods now made in Spittlefields, where within this few years were none at all made, has already viſibly affected the ſeveral parts where they were before made, as Norwich, Sudbury, Farnham, and other towns; many of whoſe principal tradeſmen are now removed hither, employ their ſtocks here, employ the poor here, and leave the poor of thoſe countries to ſhift for work.

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This breach of the circulation of trade muſt neceſſarily diſtemper the body; and I crave leave to give an example or two.

I will preſume to give an example in trade, which perhaps the gentlemen concerned in this bill may, without reflection upon their knowledge, be ignorant of.

The city of Norwich, and parts adjacent, were for ſome ages employed in the manufactures of ſtuffs and ſtockings.

The latter trade, which was once conſiderable, is in a manner wholly tranſpoſed into London by the vaſt quantities of worſted hoſe wove by the frame, which is a trade within this twenty years almoſt wholly new.

Now as the knitting frame performs that in a day which would otherwiſe employ a poor woman eight or ten days, by conſequence a few frames performed the work of many thouſand poor people; and the conſumption being not increaſed, the effect immediately appeared: ſo many ſtockings as were made in London, ſo many the fewer were demanded from Norwich, till in a few years the manufacture there wholly ſunk, the maſters there turned their hands to other buſineſs; and whereas the hoſe-trade from Norfolk once returned at leaſt 5000s. per week, and as ſome ſay twice that ſum, it is not now worth naming.

It is in fewer years, and near our memory, that of Spittlefields' men have fallen into another branch of the Norwich trade, viz. making of ſtuffs, druggets, &c.

If any man ſay the people of Norfolk are yet full of employ, and do not work, and ſome have been ſo weak as to make that reply, avoiding the many other demonſtrations which could be given; this is paſt anſwering, viz. That the combers of wool in Norfolk and Suffolk, who formerly had all, or ten parts in eleven, of their yarn manufactured in the country, now comb their wool indeed, and ſpin the yarn in the country, but ſend vaſt quantities of it to London to be woven: Will any man queſtion whether this be not a loſs to Norwich? Can there be as many weavers as before? And are there not abundance of workmen and maſters too removed to London?

Theſe are the effects of tranſpoſing manufactures, and interrupting the circulation of trade.

All methods to bring our trade to be managed by fewer hands than it was before, are in themſelves pernicious to England in general, as it leſſens the employment of the poor, unhinges their hands from the labour, and tends to bring our hands to be ſuperior to our employ, which as yet it is not.

In Dorſetſhire and Somerſetſhire there always has been a very conſiderable manufacture for ſtockings; at Colcheſter and Sudbury for baize, ſaize, &c. Moſt of the wool theſe countries uſe is bought at London, and carried

ried down into theſe counties; and then the goods being manufactured are brought back to London to market. Upon tranſpoſing the manufacture as before, all the poor people, and all the cattle who were hitherto employed in that voiture, are immediately diſbanded by their country; the inn-keepers on the roads muſt decay; ſo much land lie for other uſes as the cattle employed; houſes and tenements on the roads, and all their dependencies, ſink in value.

It is hard to calculate what a blow it would make to trade in general, ſhould every county but manufacture all the ſeveral ſorts of goods they uſe; it would throw our inland trade into ſtrange convulſions, which at preſent is perhaps, or has been, in the greateſt regularity of any in the world.

What ſtrange work muſt it then make, when every town ſhall have a manufacture, and every pariſh be a warehouſe? Trade will be burdened with corporations, which are generally equally deſtructive as monopolies, and by this method will eaſily be made ſo.

Pariſh-ſtocks, under the direction of juſtices of peace, may ſoon come to ſet up petty manufactures; and here ſhall all uſeful things be made, and all the poorer ſort of people ſhall be awed or biaſſed to trade there only. Thus the ſhop-keepers who pay taxes, and are the ſupport of our inland circulation, will immediately be ruined; and thus we ſhall beggar the nation to provide for the poor.

As this will make every pariſh a market-town, and every hoſpital a ſtore-houſe; ſo in London and the adjacent parts, to which vaſt quantities of the woollen manufacture will be thus tranſplanted thither, will in time too great and diſproportioned numbers of the people aſſemble.

Though the ſettled poor cannot remove, yet ſingle people will ſtroll about and follow the manufacturer; and thus in time ſuch vaſt numbers will be drawn about London, as may be inconvenient to the government, and eſpecially depopulating to thoſe countries where the numbers of people, by reaſon of theſe manufactures, are very conſiderable.

An eminent inſtance of this we have in the preſent trade to Muſcovy; which, however deſigned for an improvement to the Engliſh nation, and boaſted of as ſuch, appears to be converted into a monopoly, and proves injurious and deſtructive to the nation; the perſons concerned removing and carrying out our people to teach that unpoliſhed nation the improvements they are capable of.

If the bringing the Flemings to England brought with them the manufacture and trade, carrying our people abroad, eſpecially to a country where the people work for little or nothing; what may it not do towards inſtructing that populous nation in ſuch manufactures as may in time tend to the deſtruction of our trade, or the reducing our manufacture to an

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abatement in value? which will be felt at home by an abatement of wages, and that in proviſions, and that in rent of land; and ſo the general ſtock ſinks of courſe.

But as this is preparing, by eminent hands, to be laid before this Houſe as a grievance meriting your care and concern, I omit inſiſting on it here.

And this removing of people is attended with many inconveniences, which are not eaſily perceived: As,

1. The immediate fall of the value of all lands in thoſe countries where the manufactures were before: For as the numbers of people, by the conſumption of proviſions, muſt, wherever they increaſe, make rents riſe and lands valuable; ſo thoſe people removing, though the proviſions would, if poſſible, follow them, yet the price of them muſt fall by all that charge they are at for carriage; and conſequently lands muſt fall in proportion.

2. This tranſplanting of families, in time, would introduce great and new alterations in the countries they removed to; which, as they would be to the profit of ſome places, would be to the detriment of others, and can by no means be juſt any more than it is convenient. For no wiſe government ſtudies to put any branch of their country to any particular diſadvantages, though it may be found in the general account in another place.

If it be ſaid here will be manufactures in every pariſh, and that will keep the people at home;

I humbly repreſent what ſtrange confuſion and particular detriment to the general circulation of trade mentioned before, it muſt be to have every pariſh make its own manufactures.

1. It will make our towns and counties independent of one another, and put a damp to correſpondence; which all will allow to be a great motive of trade in general.

2. It will fill us with various ſorts and kinds of manufactures; by which our ſtated ſorts of goods will in time dwindle away in reputation, and foreigners not know them one from another. Our ſeveral manufactures are known by their reſpective names; and our ſerges, baize, and other goods, are bought abroad by the character and reputation of the places where they are made. When there ſhall come new and unheard of kinds to market, ſome better, ſome worſe, as to be ſure new undertakers will vary in kinds, the dignity and reputation of the Engliſh goods abroad will be loſt, and ſo many confuſions in trade muſt follow as are too many to repeat.

3. Either our pariſh-ſtock muſt ſell by wholeſale or by retail, or both. If the firſt, it is doubted they will make ſorry work of it; and having other buſineſs of their own, make but poor merchants: if by retail, then they turn pedlars, will be a public nuiſance to trade, and at laſt quite ruin it.

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4. This will ruin all the carriers in England, the wool will be all manufactured where it is ſheered, every body will make their own cloaths; and the trade, which now lives by running through multitude of hands, will go then through ſo few, that thouſands of families will want employment: and this is the only way to reduce us to the condition ſpoken of, to have more hands than work.

It is the excellence of our Engliſh manufacture, that it is ſo planted as to go through as many hands as it is poſſible; he that contrives to have it go through fewer, ought at the ſame time to provide work for the reſt: as it is, it employs a great multitude of people, and can employ more; but if a conſiderable number of theſe people be unhinged from their employment, it cannot but be detrimental to the whole.

When I ſay we could employ more people in England, I do not mean that we cannot do our work with thoſe we have, but I mean thus:

Firſt, It ſhould be more people brought over from foreign parts. I do not mean that thoſe we have ſhould be taken from all common employments and put to our manufacture; we may unequally diſpoſe of our hands, and ſo have too many for ſome works, and too few for others: and it is plain that in ſome parts of England it is ſo. What elſe can be the reaſon why, in our ſouthern parts of England, Kent in particular, borrows 20,000 people of other counties to get in her harveſt?

But if more foreigners came among us, if it were two millions, it could do us no harm, becauſe they would conſume our proviſions, and we have land enough to produce much more than we do; and they would conſume our manufactures, and we have wool enough for any quantity.

I think therefore, with ſubmiſſion, to erect manufactures in every town; to tranſpoſe the manufactures from the ſettled places into private pariſhes and corporations, to parcel out our trade to every door, it muſt be ruinous to the manufactures themſelves, will turn thouſands of families out of their employments, and take the bread out of the mouths of diligent and induſtrious families, to feed vagrants, thieves, and beggars, who ought much rather to be compelled by legal methods to ſeek that work which it is plain is to be had: and thus this act will, inſtead of ſettling and relieving the poor, increaſe their number, and ſtarve the beſt of them.

It remains now, according to my firſt propoſal, page 70, to conſider from whence proceeds the poverty of our people; what accident, what decay of trade, what want of employment, what ſtrange revolution of circumſtances, makes our people poor, and conſequently burdenſome, and our laws deficient, ſo as to make more and other laws requiſite, and the nation concerned to apply a remedy to this growing diſeaſe? I anſwer:

1. Not for want of work; and beſides, what has been ſaid on that head, I humbly deſire theſe two things may be conſidered.

Firſt, It is apparent, that if one man, woman, or child, can by his or her labour earn more money than will ſubſiſt one body, there muſt conſequently be no want of work, ſince any man would work for juſt as much as would ſupply himſelf rather than ſtarve. What a vaſt difference then muſt there be between the work and the workmen? when it is now known that in Spittlefields and other adjacent parts of the city, there is nothing more frequent then for a journeyman weaver, of many ſorts, to gain from 15s. to 30s. per week wages; and I appeal to the ſilk-throwſters, whether they do not give 8s. 9s. and 10s per week to blind men and cripples, to turn wheels, and do the meaneſt and moſt ordinary works?

Cur Moriatur Homo, &c.

WHY are the families of theſe men ſtarved and their children in workhouſes, and brought up by charity? I am ready to produce to this Honourable Houſe the man, who for ſeveral years has gained of me by his handy labour, at the mean ſcoundrel employment of tile making, from 16s. to 20s. per week wages, and all that time would hardly have a pair of ſhoes to his feet, or cloaths to cover his nakedneſs, and had his wife and children kept by the pariſh.

The meaneſt labours in this nation afford the workmen ſufficient to provide for himſelf and his family, and that could never be if there was a want of work.

Secondly, I humbly deſire this Honourable Houſe to conſider the preſent difficulty of raiſing ſoldiers in this kingdom; the vaſt charge the kingdom is at to the officers to procure men; the many little and not over-honeſt methods made uſe of to bring them into the ſervice, the laws made to compel them. Why are goals rumaged for malefactors, and the mint and priſons for debtors? the war is an employment of honour, and ſuffers ſome ſcandal in having men taken from the gallows, and immediately from villains and houſebreakers made gentlemen ſoldiers. If men wanted employment, and conſequently bread, this could never be; any man would carry a muſket rather than ſtarve, and wear the Queen's cloth, or any body's cloth, rather than go naked, and live in rags and want. It is plain the nation is full of people, and it is as plain our people have no particular averſion to the war; but they are not poor enough to go abroad: it is poverty makes men ſoldiers and drives cowards into the armies; and the difficulties to get Engliſhmen to liſt is, becauſe they live in plenty and eaſe; and he that can earn 20s per week at an eaſy ſteady employment, muſt be drunk or mad when he liſts for a ſoldier to be knocked o' th' head for 3s. 6d. per week: but if there was no work to be had, if the poor wanted employment, if they had not bread to eat, nor knew not how to earn it, thouſands

of young luſty fellows would fly to the pike and muſket, and chooſe to die like men in the face of the enemy, rather than lie at home, ſtarve, periſh in poverty and diſtreſs.

From all theſe particulars, and innumerable unhappy inſtances which might be given, it is plain the poverty of our people, which is ſo burdenſome, and increaſes upon us ſo much, does not ariſe from want of proper employments, and for want of work or employers; and conſequently,

Workhouſes, corporations, pariſh-ſtocks, and the like, to ſet them to work, as they are pernicious to trade, injurious and impoveriſhing to thoſe already employed, ſo they are needleſs, and will come ſhort of the end propoſed.

The poverty and exigence of the poor in England is plainly derived from one of theſe two particular cauſes,

Caſualty or *Crime*.

By caſualty, I mean ſickneſs of families, loſs of limbs or ſight, and any either natural or accidental impotence as to labour.

Theſe, as infirmities merely providential, are not all concerned in this debate: ever were, will, and ought to be the charge and care of the reſpective pariſhes where ſuch unhappy people chance to live; nor is there any want of new laws to make proviſion for them, our anceſtors having been always careful to do it.

The crimes of our people, and from whence their poverty derives, as the viſible and direct fountains, are,

1. Luxury.
2. Sloath.
3. Pride.

Good huſbandry is no Engliſh virtue; it may have been brought over; and in ſome places where it has been planted it has thriven well enough; but it is a foreign ſpecies, it neither loves nor is beloved by an Engliſhman: and it is obſerved, nothing is ſo univerſally hated, nothing treated with ſuch a general contempt, as a rich covetous man, though he does no man any wrong, only ſaves his own; every man will have an ill word for him. If misfortune happens to him, Hang him, a coveteus old rogue, it is no matter, he is rich enough. Nay, when a certain great man's houſe was on fire, I have heard the people ſay one to another, Let it burn and it will, he is a covetous old miſerly dog; I will not trouble my head to help him; he would be hanged before he would give us a bit of bread if we wanted it.

Though this be a fault, yet I obſerve from it ſomething of the natural

temper and and genius of the nation; generally ſpeaking, they cannot ſave their money.

It is generally ſaid, the Engliſh get eſtates and the Dutch ſave them: and this obſervation I have made between foreigners and Engliſhmen, that where an Engliſhman earns 20s. per week, and but juſt lives, as we call it, a Dutchman grows rich, and leaves his children in very good condition. Where an Engliſh labouring-man, with his 9s. per week, lives wretchedly and poor, a Dutchman with that wages will live tolerably well, keep the wolf from the door, and have every thing handſome about him. In ſhort, he will be rich with the ſame gain as makes the Engliſhman poor; he will thrive when the other goes in rags; and he will live when the other ſtarves or goes a-begging.

The reaſon is plain; a man with good huſbandry, and thought in his head, brings home his earnings honeſtly to his family, commits it to the management of his wife, or otherwiſe diſpoſes it for proper ſubſiſtence; and this man with mean gains, lives comfortably and brings up a family, when a ſingle man, getting the ſame wages, drinks it away at the alehouſe, thinks not of to-morrow, lays up nothing for ſickneſs, age, or diſaſter; and when any of theſe happen he is ſtarved and a beggar.

This is ſo apparent in every place, that I think it needs no explication, that Engliſh labouring people eat and drink, but eſpecially the latter, three times as much in value as any ſort of foreigners of the ſame dimenſions in the world.

I am not writing this as a ſatire on our people, it is a ſad truth; and worthy the debate and application of the nation's phyſicians aſſembled in parliament; the profuſe extravagant humour of our poor people in eating and drinking, keeps them low, cauſes their children to be left naked and ſtarving to the care of the pariſhes, whenever either ſickneſs or diſaſter befals the parent.

The next article is their *ſloth*.

We are the moſt lazy diligent nation in the world; vaſt trade, rich manufactures, mighty wealth, univerſal correſpondence, and happy ſucceſs, has been conſtant companions of England, and given us the title of an induſtrious people; and ſo in general we are.

But there is a general taint of ſlothfulneſs upon our poor; there is nothing more frequent than for an Engliſhman to work till he has got his pocket full of money, and then go and be idle, or perhaps drunk, till it is all gone, and perhaps himſelf in debt; and aſk him in his cups, what he intends? he will tell you honeſtly, he will drink as long as it laſts, and then go to work for more.

I humbly ſuggeſt, this diſtemper is ſo general, ſo epidemic, and ſo deep rooted

rooted in the nature and genius of the Engliſh, that I much doubt its being eaſily redreſſed, and queſtion whether it be poſſible to reach it by an act of parliament.

This is the ruin of our poor; the wife mourns, the children ſtarves, the huſband has work before him, but lies at the alehouſe, or otherwiſe idles away his time, and will not work.

It is the men that will not work, not the men that can get no work, which makes the numbers of our poor; all the workhouſes in England, all the overſeers ſetting up ſtocks and manufactures will not reach this caſe: and I humbly preſume to ſay, if theſe two articles are removed, there will be no need of the other.

I make no difficulty to promiſe on a ſhort ſummons, to produce above a thouſand families in England, within my particular knowledge, who go in rags, and their children wanting bread, whoſe fathers can earn their 15 to 25s. per week, but will not work; who have work enough, but are too idle to ſeek after it, and hardly vouchſafe to earn any thing more than bare ſubſiſtence, and ſpending money for themſelves.

I can give an incredible number of examples in my own knowledge among our labouring poor. I once paid ſix or ſeven men together on a Saturday night, the leaſt 10s. and ſome 30s. for work, and have ſeen them go with it directly to the alehouſe, lie there till Monday, ſpend it every penny, and run in debt to boot, and not give a farthing of it to their families, though all of them had wives and children.

From hence comes poverty, pariſh-charges, and beggary. If ever one of theſe wretches falls ſick, all they would aſk was a paſs to the pariſh they lived at, and the wife and children to the door a-begging.

If this Honourable Houſe can find out a remedy for this part of the miſchief; if ſuch acts of parliament may be made as may effectually cure the ſloth and luxury of our poor, that ſhall make drunkards take care of wife and children, ſpendthrifts lay up for a wet day, idle lazy fellows diligent, and thoughtleſs ſottiſh men careful and provident:

If this can be done, I preſume to ſay there will be no need of tranſpoſing and confounding our manufactures, and the circulation of our trade: they will ſoon find work enough, and there will ſoon be leſs poverty among us; and if this cannot be done, ſetting them to work upon woollen manufactures, and thereby encroaching upon thoſe that now work at them, will but ruin our trade, and conſequently increaſe the number of the poor.

I do not preſume to offer the ſchemes I have now drawn of methods for the bringing much of this to paſs, becauſe I ſhall not preſume to lead a body ſo auguſt, ſo wiſe, and ſo capable as this Honourable Aſſembly.

I humbly ſubmit what is here offered, as reaſons to prove the attempt now making inſufficient; and doubt not but in your great wiſdom, you will find out ways and means to ſet this matter in a clearer light, and on a right foot.

And if this obtains on the Houſe to examine farther into this matter, the author humbly recommends it to their conſideration to accept, in behalf of all the poor of this nation, a clauſe in the room of this objected againſt, which ſhall anſwer the end without this terrible ruin to our trade and people.

A LETTER

A LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF GLASGOW,

CONTAINING

A SHORT VIEW

OF THE

MANAGEMENT OF THE POOR'S FUNDS,

UNDER THE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE GENERAL SESSION;

TOGETHER WITH

An Account of the Age, Family, Earning, and Proviſion made for each Pensioner on the Funds of the particular Seſſions, by the Town's Hoſpital, Trades, Boxes, or other Charities, as well as by the Seſſions.

By a Citizen *of* Glasgow.

(Glasgow: Printed by Robert Chapman and Alexander Duncan. Price One Shilling.)

To the CITIZENS of GLASGOW.

GENTLEMEN,

THE poor of the city are *your* poor, and it is your *duty* to make proviſion for them: The money wherewith they are ſupplied is *your* money, and you have a right to know in what manner it is laid out. The General Seſſion of Glaſgow is aſſured that you feel the obligation of *this* duty; and ſo far from denying *that* right, it calls upon you to exerciſe it, and has authorized this publication, that you may be enabled to do it in a manner ſatisfying to your own minds.

It

It will be the firſt queſtion with every one who wiſely conſiders the caſe of the poor,---In what rank or ſtation of life are they to be maintained? If they are to be maintained in affluence, a ſum proportioned to ſuch a deſign muſt be provided; for no managers can execute a liberal plan upon ſcanty or precarious funds. Before theſe funds are provided, it will be proper to conſider the conſequences: If the poor have a certain and a liberal proviſion made by the public, we may bid farewel to induſtry and frugality among that claſs of men: nothing will be laid up in the days of health for the time of ſickneſs and the infirmities of old age; no proviſion will be made for children, however deſtitute they may be left. It has been the experience of every country, that a liberal proviſion for the poor has been followed by ſloth, prodigality, and neglect of their families: This muſt always be the caſe, where the public maintains them *as well* as they were maintained by their own induſtry; and if they are *better* ſupplied, it is holding out a temptation almoſt irreſiſtible to become poor. By ſuch management, their poverty would produce all the agreeable effects of riches; better ſupplied with food, clothing, lodging, and medicine, they have the preſent gratification of a ſlothful diſpoſition, and the pleaſure of ſpending all they can earn, and all they can borrow.

It follows, that no perſon maintained on charity ſhould be raiſed *above* that rank which he held in the period of health and induſtry: That every perſon on charity ſhould deſcend at leaſt one ſtep *below* the ſtation which he occupied in the ſeaſon of health and labour: That the virtue and happineſs of the poor depend in a great meaſure upon a ſtrict attention to theſe concluſions.

By the laws of our country, by the laws of our nature, and by the laws of our religion, we are bound to preſerve life in a healthful ſtate; but by no laws are we bound to maintain the loweſt, or any other claſs of poor, in the ſame ſtation which they held before they were on charity.

As it is a difficult matter to aſcertain preciſely what is neceſſary to preſerve life, ſo it would be diſagreeable to recite the hiſtory of ſailors on ſhort allowance, and other hiſtories of a ſimilar kind, from whence alone information could be got. Wherever the ſtarving point lies, the managers of charity-funds ſhould endeavour to be above it: The propenſity of human nature is to the other extreme, eſpecially in the management of public funds.

Your attention is at preſent requeſted to the loweſt claſs of the poor, who, in their beſt circumſtances, were found among common labourers and journey tradeſmen. When theſe become poor, it ſeems to be a deſcent as gentle as poſſible, if the family of a journeyman on charity is maintained in equal plenty with the family of a labouring man, where they have health and work, and are not upon charity. And if the family of a

labouring

labouring man, coming upon public funds, is maintained at ſomewhat leſs expence than when health, induſtry, and proſperity attended them.

To render this argument as ſimple as poſſible, we ſhall ſuppoſe that the whole of the ſeſſion's poor are to be ſupplied in the ſame plenty which a labouring man's family enjoys when health and induſtry are in his dwelling.

In the year 1782, an inquiry was carried on till it extended to 719 families, who were ſupplied out of the ſeſſion's funds; among this number there was not a ſingle inſtance of a labourer having a wife and four children who received charity when they had health and work. On the contrary, numberleſs inſtances occur of five and ſix children in families of this deſcription, who never think of aſking, and if they did, would not receive charity. A labouring man's wages, and what his wife can earn, are found ſufficient to maintain any family not uncommonly numerous: But in calculations of this kind the balance ſhould lean to the ſide of the poor. Wherefore we ſhall found the calculation upon the example of a labouring man, with a wife and only *four* children. It would be perfectly ideal to calculate upon a man of extraordinary ſtrength, genius, or activity, of uncommon ſkill or dexterity in any particular branch; every thing *extraordinary* muſt be ſet aſide; and we muſt calculate upon ſuch wages as are paid by thoſe who give work through the whole year, if the labourer is able and willing to perform it, and if the weather permit him to work: But we muſt not conjure up a labouring man, who, beſide earning his wages, does jobs from nine to ten in the morning, from one to two in the afternoon, and from ſix to nine in the evening. Sometimes they may do theſe things, but it is ſeldom they can do them, and ſeldom they can get them to do at theſe hours.

In Glaſgow there are many labouring men who are provided in work through the year, whoſe wages are no more than four ſhillings and ſixpence in the week; we ſhall however call it five ſhillings; including jobs and extra funds of ſubſiſtence, we ſhall calculate upon five ſhillings and ſixpence in the week. As to the wife's earning it cannot be much, having the care of four children; we do not find that they earn any thing. An ordinary woman, with no care, uſually earns from one ſhilling and threepence weekly; let the wife be rated at one third of ſuch earning, or at five-pence *per* week.

The groſs income of this family *per annum*, will be			L. 15	7 8
Deductions for				
Want of work by bad weather, ſix days *per ann.*	L. 0	5	6	
Sickneſs in perſon or family, two days, do.	0	1	10	
Extra tear and wear of ſhoes, &c. by labour, do.	0	5	0	
At a fair one day, - do.	0	0	11	
Carried forward,	L. 0	13	3	

Brought forward,				L. 0	13	3	L. 15 7 8
Religious avocations, three days,	-	do.		0	2	9	
Burials in and out of the family, one day,		do.		0	0	11	
Education and books,	-	do.		0	10	0	
Medical aſſiſtance,	- -	do.		0	2	6	
Expence of baptiſms and burials in the family,		do.		0	5	0	
Whiſky, &c.	- -	do.		0	5	0	
						L.	1 19 5
Neat income of the family,					-	L.	13 8 3

Expence.

To the huſband's maintenance, being at hard labour, clothing, &c. including 1s. 10d. per week,	L. 4	15	4	
To the wife's maintenance, at 1s. 1d. per week,	2	16	4	
To the maintenance of four children, at the rate of $6\frac{1}{4}$d. per week each,	5	12	8	
			L.	13 4 4
Balance for tobacco and other incidents,				0 3 9

If the above calculation does not coincide with the ſentiments of others, the proper anſwer is, Another calculation, founded on principles more juſt, and if it be more favourable to the poor, will be highly acceptable.

It was laid down as a principle, that in order to encourage induſtry and frugality, no perſon ſhould be maintained by charity exactly in the ſame rank which he formerly held on his own funds: If there is, and ought to be a coming down, one more ſoft and eaſy cannot well be wiſhed for, than from one ſhilling and ten-pence to one ſhilling and two-pence; from one ſhilling and one penny to one ſhilling; and from ſixpence-halfpenny to ſixpence in the week. The firſt appears to be the greateſt reduction; but when the difference is conſidered between a young ſtrong man, at hard labour, and a frail, diſabled, confined man, who can do no work, perhaps the difference will not appear unreaſonable. There is one caſe to which this rule ſhould not be applied, where the huſband is able to work, and does work, to maintain a very numerous family, but ſtands in need of aſſiſtance; as this man's wages diminiſh the ſupply which otherwiſe would be neceſſary, he muſt be allowed the ſubſiſtence of a labouring-man.

It will appear from an examination of the following Tables, that theſe are the principles by which the management of the ſeſſions is directed, though long and conſtant practice makes it unneceſſary to look ſo far back on every occaſion.

The

The next point is to aſcertain the proportion of this ſubſiſtence which ought to be given in charity.

In whatever proportion their own labour is defective, it muſt be ſupplied out of other funds: but great difficulties will occur in attempting to diſcover the true amount of labour in a family. The moſt obvious method is to aſk information from the head of the family; they have many temptations to call it leſs, which in general they will do, even where there is no intention to deceive; it would be dangerous, however, to rate it at more than they ſay: by doing ſo, honeſt men would ſuffer for their honeſty, and a deceiver would have a better ſubſiſtence in place of a worſe. In caſes where a clear judgment cannot be formed, upon conſidering the age, ſtate of health, and the nature of their employment, the only check that can be introduced, is a private inquiry at their neighbours and employers. When an opinion is to be formed without ſuch inquiry, ſome allowances ſhould be made for want of dexterity, or want of ſpirit.

Tables, containing a full and true account of every material fact and circumſtance relating to the families of the poor, are likely to be of great uſe in managing public money. When we are to diſpoſe of our own money, we wiſh to ſee the objects of our charity; there is a pleaſant pain in hearing the tale of wo expreſſed with the ſimple eloquence of adverſity: The appeal is made to our *feelings:* we have admitted that appeal; and by theſe feelings the buſineſs ſhould be finally determined: The poor perſon has acquired a ſort of right to it, by our liſtening to the woful narrative. But when we are to diſpoſe of the money of others, we ſhould remember, that they truſt to our underſtanding and not to our feelings. We ſhould therefore prefer that ſituation where the judgment is leaſt biaſſed by the paſſions; and a well-conſtructed table is the beſt rule for guiding our judgment.

In private charity, our feelings are reſtrained by avarice, economy, or a recollection of our own wants. In the management of public funds we are under no ſuch reſtraints; on the contrary, we are tempted to give the utmoſt licence to feelings which we and the world reckon of the finer ſort.

In all charities which have a mean ſubſiſtence for their object, the managers ſhould judge from ſuch tables; and one may venture to foretel, that he who has never ſeen the perſon in queſtion, nor heard a warm deſcription of his ſituation, will judge more rationally by a proper table, than another whoſe heart has been already rouſed on the ſubject.

In this manner the poor in the city are admitted to a proviſion out of the ſeſſion's funds; and the great objects, in the view of the elders, are, that each poor perſon or family ſhall have as much as their own labour is deficient; that none ſhall have too much; and that every individual of

this claſs of poor be equally ſupplied, except a ſmall variation on account of good behaviour in former times.

Whether the ſeſſions have kept theſe objects conſtantly in view, and with what degree of wiſdom and economy they manage their funds, is ſubmitted to thoſe who will take the trouble of examining the following Table.

The general ſeſſion has been in uſe for ſome time to diſtribute about forty-two pounds ſterling every four weeks: they have now reſolved to diſtribute fifty as long as they ſhall be enabled. During the laſt winter they have diſtributed a hundred pounds ſterling every four weeks, on account of the high price of proviſions; this they have been enabled to do, partly by a ſmall capital reſerved for difficult times, but chiefly by very liberal donations.

The principal regulation made by the general ſeſſion, as to the ordinary diſtribution of fifty pounds every four weeks, is, that three-fouths of that ſum be laid out in PENSIONS proportioned to the wants of the moſt neceſſitous of the poor, and one-fourth reſerved for OCCASIONAL CHARITIES.

The *occaſional charities*, during this winter, have amounted to a great ſum; but no ſtate of them can be offered to the public; it would be improper to publiſh their names: and ſuch is the nature of occaſional charity, that the ſame perſons ſeldom receive it two months together.

The *penſions* were originally formed by a judgment of the ſeſſion, concerning what was neceſſary for ſubſiſtence to the family in *ordinary times*; theſe penſions continue the ſame for three months, at the end of which they are reviewed by the ſeſſion, and altered by them as the circumſtances of the penſioners require. Theſe penſions are now to be placed under the public eye. But it muſt be obſerved, that, during the winter, an additional ſum was added to them, to make the penſions equivalent to the high price of proviſions: In ſome ſeſſions this was done, by adding one ſhilling to each of the ordinary penſions.

The month of February laſt is fixed upon as an example, being the firſt in which the penſions were clearly and univerſally diſtinguiſhed from the occaſional charity; and, beſide a ſhort deſcription of each Pariſh, and each proportion, the Tables exhibit in columns,

1. The names of the penſioners; and if the huſband and wife are both at home, it is marked in this column.
2. The age was taken from their own account of it in harveſt laſt.
3. All children below ten years of age are reckoned infant children; and a few inſtances above ten years of age, who are diſabled by diſeaſe, are, on that account, ſtill numbered as infants.
4. Their earning per week was taken from the poor perſons themſelves, and probably it is not higher than the truth.
5. The pounds of meal in this column are given weekly at the Town's Hoſpital.

6. The

6. The ſeſſion's penſion is marked in pence, and is paid every four weeks.
7. The nurſing-wages are paid quarterly by the Town's Hoſpital.
8. This column expreſſes in pence all the other charities received by the family. Theſe are drawn from ſuch a variety of funds, that they could not be diſtinguiſhed in an abſtract where the utmoſt conciſeneſs was ſtudied.

That there may be errors in the Tables, is far from being improbable; thoſe who know any thing of the difficulty of ſuch a work will readily excuſe them; and thoſe who are ſtrangers to it will not.

TABLE

OF THE

NORTH PARISH OF GLASGOW.

NORTH PARISH *contains that part of the City on the north ſide of Havannah and Bun's wynd.*

	Age—years,	Number of infant children,	Earn per week, pence,	Meal in the week, pounds,	Seſſion-pence in four weeks,	Nurſing wages, per quarter, ſhill. pence,	Trades, boxes, and other charities, pence per month,
1ſt Proportion, from Mr Brown's houſe to the head of Havannah on north ſide.							
Margaret Robertſon, wife of Allan Bowes,	72	0	6	0	24	0 0	15
Flora M'Donald, widow Johnſton, -	40	3	18	0	24	8 4	0
2d Proportion, from head of Havannah, along ſouth ſide of High-ſtreet, to William Dun's land, eaſt ſide of High-ſtreet incluſive.							
Agnes Chapman, widow Wier, -	80	0	7	0	30	0 0	0
Rachel Fraſer, widow Craig, -	70	0	10	0	18	0 0	0
Mary M'Donald, . -	56	0	10	0	24	0 0	0
Alexander Bannerman and wife, -	48	5	36	8	36	0 0	0
William Buchanan, wife 50, -	69	2	48	4	36	0 0	15
Mary M'Gregor, lives with a daughter,	88	0	0	0	30	0 0	0
3d Proportion, from William Dun's land by Wynd head, to Mr Ralſton's land in Drygate incluſive.							
Agnes Henderſon, widow Calder, -	70	0	6	0	24	0 0	0
Janet Smith, widow Gray, -	80	0	2	4	24	0 0	0
Betty Turnbull, confined to bed, -	40	0	0	6	30	0 0	0
Elizabeth Hay, - -	84	0	0	0	24	0 0	0
Iſobel Jamieſon, widow Hill,	40	3	15	0	24	8 4	0

NORTH PARISH *continued.*

	Age—years,	Number of infant children,	Earn per week, pence,	Meal in the week, pounds,	Seſſion-pence in four weeks,	Nurſing wages, per quarter, ſhill. pence,	Trades, boxes, and other charities, pence per month,
4th Proportion, from Mr Ralſton's land to the Drygate-bridge.							
Mary Campbell, widow Campbell, -	71	0	10	0	24	0 0	0
Jean Grahame, widow Dick, -	68	0	6	0	36	0 0	0
Ann Barr, widow Muir, - -	87	0	0	0	24	0 0	0
William Paul, and wife 45, -	67	3	30	6	18	0 0	16
5th Proportion, beyond the Drygate-bridge.							
Helen M'Aulay, widow M'Kechnie,	69	0	12	0	24	0 0	10
Marion Caldwell, widow Imrie, -	63	1	4	0	24	0 0	0
Janet Boog, wid. Walkingſhaw, child. aſſiſt.	67	0	6	0	24	0 0	0
Jean Henderſon, huſband, Brodie, in Ireland.	37	2	18	6	24	0 0	0
6th Proportion, north ſide of Drygate, the houſes round the High-church, and ends with Mr Glen's houſe.							
Jan. Robertſon, huſb. M'Junkin, in the hoſpital,	69	0	6	0	24	0 0	0
Chriſtian Park, widow Dobbie, -	68	0	12	0	24	0 0	24
John Jamieſon, wife 80, bedrid, -	70	0	12	0	36	0 0	24
Margaret Barrie, - -	37	1	12	0	18	0 0	0
Jean Hood, huſband, Hay, ſoldier, -	35	3	15	0	24	8 4	0
Agnes M'Phail, widow Blair, -	53	1	12	0	18	0 0	0
Ann Kelly, huſband, Gemmil, ſoldier,	27	2	18	0	30	0 0	0
Catharine Whyte, - -	58	0	8	0	18	0 0	0
Eliz. Fergulon, huſband, Spears, ſoldier,	27	2	24	0	24	0 0	0
7th Proportion, between the three ſtreets oppoſite to the Alms-houſe.							
Grizel Cumming, - -	60	0	6	0	24	0 0	0
Janet Bowie, - - -	55	0	10	0	24	0 0	0
Margaret Boyd, widow Bogle, -	77	0	8	0	24	0 0	30
Janet Muir, widow M'Gregor, -	44	0	12	0	24	0 0	0
Iſobel Wright, widow Rowand, -	44	3	24	0	36	8 4	0
Ann Applin, widow Rowand, -	60	0	9	0	18	0 0	0
Alexander Brodie, almoſt blind, wife 59.	59	0	12	0	30	0 0	48
James Walker, wife 58, - -	88	0	6	8	24	0 0	24
Margaret Zuill, widow M'Aliſter, -	69	0	8	0	24	0 0	0
Mary Paterſon, huſb. Henderſon, ſoldier,	29	3	15	8	24	0 0	0
Margaret Fulton, - -	63	0	10	0	18	0 0	0
Thomas Morriſon, and wife 50, -	72	1	24	0	36	0 0	0
Margaret M'Gregor, widow Mackay,	50	1	16	0	24	0 0	0
James Wardrop, and wife 39, conſumptive,	83	0	24	0	30	0 0	0
8th Proportion, all the country part, and from Howgate, the weſt ſide of the ſtreet, to Duncan M'Callum's near the Coſtle.							
James Millar, paralytic, with a ſiſter,	60	0	0	0	24	0 0	0
Elizabeth Drew, widow Henderſon,	90	0	0	0	18	0 0	63
Peter Graham, and wife 47, -	49	3	36	0	18	0 0	0

Ann

NORTH PARISH *continued.*

	Age——years,	Number of infant children,	Earn per week, pence,	Meal in the week, pounds,	Session-pence in four weeks,	Nurſing wages, per quarter, ſhill. pence,		Trades, boxes, and other charities, pence per month,
Ann Denham, widow Brock, -	69	0	10	0	18	0	0	8
Elizabeth Somerville, widow Brown,	81	0	0	0	36	0	0	24
Jean Young, widow Lennox, -	76	0	6	0	18	0	0	0
Agnes Rowand, widow Boyd, -	47	0	10	0	18	0	0	0
Ann Morriſon, widow Walker, -	30	3	15	0	36	0	0	0
David Liddell, - -	74	2	begs	0	24	0	0	0
9th Proportion, from Duncan M'Callum's along the High-ſtreet, and north ſide of Rottenrow, to Mrs Bannantyne's land inclusive.								
Chriſtian Murray, widow Carſe, -	70	0	8	0	30	0	0	0
James Carſe, ſilly, and at times unruly,	40	0	10	0	18	0	0	0
Robert Dick, - -	76	0	10	0	18	0	0	0
Andrew Grahame, conſumptive, wife 37,	45	4	12	12	36	0	0	72
Agnes Wallace, Widow Callender, -	47	3	12	6	24	0	0	0
Catharine Jackſon, widow Harvie, -	60	0	8	0	18	0	0	0
Betty Jack, widow Brown, -	40	3	0	6	30	8	4	0
10th Proportion, the remainder of the Rottenrow, north ſide, and Falconer's land on the ſouth.								
Margaret King, widow Wier, -	63	0	8	0	24	0	0	8
James M'Kay, wife 57, inſane, -	61	0	20	4	36	0	0	20
Elizabeth Campbell, huſband, Gow, ſoldier,	33	3	18	6	24	0	0	0
Janet Bulloch, - -	45	0	0	0	36	0	0	12
Robert Roy, paralytic, and wife 62,	60	0	8	6	30	0	0	44
11th Proportion, ſouth ſide of the Rottenrow.								
Janet Peadie, - -	81	0	4	0	24	0	0	0
Agnes Main, widow M'Fee, -	60	0	6	0	24	0	0	0
Jean Gardiner, - - -	62	0	12	0	18	0	0	0
Margaret Reid, Widow Lyon, -	60	0	10	0	24	0	0	0
Janet Bryce, - -	50	0	12	0	24	0	0	0
Chriſtian Bryce, bedrid, -	52	0	0	0	24	0	0	0
Giles Wright, huſband, Hood, ſoldier,	36	3	12	6	30	0	0	0
Margaret M'Aulay, widow Marſhall,	61	0	10	0	24	0	0	0
Helen Paterſon, widow Paterſon, -	68	0	12	0	24	0	0	0
Elizabeth Picken, widow Nicolſon, -	65	0	12	0	24	0	0	0
Jean Walker, widow Picken, -	83	0	8	0	18	0	0	32
Jean Fleckfield, widow Morriſon, -	83	0	begs	0	30	0	0	0
Agnes Brown, huſb. Dawſon, ſoldier,	50	0	10	0	24	0	0	0
Margaret M'Callum, widow M'Kenzie,	78	0	0	0	30	0	0	0
12th Proportion, from Wynd-head, the weſt ſide of the ſtreet, to Mr Hamilton's land exclusive.								
Agnes Dobbie, widow Ferguſſon, paralytic,	67	0	0	0	36	0	0	0

Iſobel

NORTH PARISH *continued.*

	Age—years,	Number of infant children,	Earn per week, pence,	Meal in the week, pounds,	Seſſion-pence in four weeks,	Nurſing wages, per quarter, ſhill. pence,		Trades, boxes, and other charities, pence per month,
Iſobel Young, widow M'Junkin, -	66	0	6	0	24	0	0	•
Mary M'Farlane, widow Buchanan,	70	•	10	•	24	0	0	15
Daniel M'Keg, and wife 45, -	62	1	24	0	24	0	0	0
Agnes Paterſon, - -	55	0	12	0	24	0	•	0
Dorothy M'Kechnie, widow Wright,	67	0	8	0	24	0	0	0
13th Proportion, from Mr Hamilton's land along the High-ſtreet, weſt ſide, to Bun's Wynd, with the north ſide of Bun's Wynd to Deanſide.								
Margaret Fleming, blind, -	75	0	0	0	30	0	0	0
Janet Clacher, widow M'Farlan, -	80	0	9	•	36	0	0	0
Thomas Anderſon, blind, wife 67, -	67	0	12	6	24	0	0	48
Mary Thomſon, widow Hill, -	36	3	18	6	24	0	0	0
Lilly Dunlop, widow Meiklejohn,	77	0	0	4	30	0	0	0
Jean M'Kean, widow Dun,	67	0	10	0	24	0	0	0
Margaret Crombie, huſb. Wright, ſoldier,	40	2	18	0	24	0	0	0
James M'Indoe, conſumptive, wife 36,	52	1	16	8	36	0	0	0
Margaret M'Callum, huſband, ſoldier,	40	2	2	0	30	8	4	0
Chriſtian Clerk, widow Gardiner,	67	0	10	0	18	0	0	0
Janet Harvie, widow Whyte, -	62	0	12	0	24	0	0	6

[*This valuable performance contains Tables of the Eight Pariſhes of Glaſgow; but the North Pariſh alone was deemed ſufficient to print as a ſpecimen.*]

THIS, Gentlemen, is the firſt time that ſuch complete information concerning the poor has been laid before any large ſociety. Where a pariſh can meet together they may be *informed* of the ſtate of the poor with whom they are connected; but this mode of information cannot take place in a populous city; the only ſubſtitute that our ſituation admits of, in place of pariſh meetings, muſt be prepared in ſome ſuch form as the preſent. With candid men, the novelty of the attempt will be a ſufficient apology for its imperfections; and when it is conſidered, that within the laſt fifty years the ſum allowed in Glaſgow for maintaining the loweſt claſs of the poor, has riſen from about ſix hundred to three thouſand pounds ſterling in the year, it will probably be admitted, that the ſubject is of ſufficient importance.

Though the Tables do not, and ought not to contain an account of thoſe who receive occaſional charity out of the ſeſſion's funds; yet it may be depended on, that the Tables contain an account of the moſt neceſſitous. And if they ſhall be of uſe in convincing you that a reaſonable and juſt proviſion is made, even for the moſt neceſſitous of your poor; this perſuaſion will undoubtedly prevent you from giving encouragemement to beggars,

beggars, whoſe wants generally ariſe from their own idleneſs or extravagance. Giving alms to perſons unknown, is, in our ſituation, giving either to thoſe who do not need, or to thoſe who are, or ought to be, ſupplied by their own pariſhes: No man can complain of his own burdens, while he is eager to ſeize every opportunity of increaſing them, by aſſuming the burdens of others. And it is well known, that almoſt every one of the beggars in this city come from other pariſhes, able and willing to provide for them; not a few from another nation, with the hope of impoſing on your credulity.

Some inſtances will appear in the tables, where the income is *below* the calculated proviſion; in general, thoſe live with their children, and are aſſiſted by them; a duty which no public charity ought to ſuperſede; and yet ſuch aſſiſtance could not be marked in figures, nor properly aſcertained in any other way. In a few inſtances, there was a *manifeſt* impoſition, with reſpect to what they could earn, which has been attended to by the ſeſſions in giving their penſion.

If theſe tables ſhall be of uſe to the ſeſſions in enabling the members to form a judgment of the ſtate of their own poor; if they ſhall diſcover any upon the funds who do not ſtand in need of charity, or prevent ſuch perſons from applying; but eſpecially if they ſhall direct the ſeſſions to thoſe who are moſt indigent, the principal ends in view will be in ſome meaſure attained.

If other ſocieties ſhall be perſuaded to communicate liſts of their penſioners, theſe will no doubt diſcover many things which are not known; and there can be little doubt of their doing ſo, when the only object in view is to give true information concerning the ſtate of the poor, ſo that none may be in want while others have too much.

Thoſe who are fond of calculations may eaſily diſcover the whole number on the ſeſſions *penſions*, by adding the numbers in the firſt to the numbers in the third column. They may diſcover the revenue by which theſe are ſupported, and what proportion of this revenue every one enjoys, allowing half the ſum for an infant that is allowed for a grown perſon.

Many other obſervations may be made; but as this publication was chiefly intended for thoſe who chooſe to *think* on the ſubject, it would be improper to anticipate what is meant to be encouraged, by

Your moſt humble Servant,

GLASGOW,
April 12. 1783.

A CITIZEN OF GLASGOW.

THE Magiſtrates of Glaſgow have very properly beſtowed their public approbation on a worthy clergyman, who with ſuch infinite labour has given them a moſt particular view of the management of the poor. His judicious obſervations demonſtrate how thoroughly he has ſtudied this important ſubject; and thoſe to whom he has addreſſed himſelf have undoubtedly received great ſatisfaction and inſtruction: Yet it is to be wiſhed that he had extended his tables ſo that the firſt view might have ſhown the earnings, alms, and ſubſiſtence of the poor. As few people have both leiſure and inclination to form the neceſſary tables for themſelves, the following ones are therefore given, in hopes of facilitating the inveſtigation of this public concern.

An Alteration of the Glaſgow Table of the EARNINGS, ALMS, and CHARITIES given to the POOR.

North pariſh contains that part of the city on the north ſide of Havannah ſtreet and Bun's wynd.

	Age.	Wives.	Number of children.	Total number.	Earnings per week.		Trade-boxes, &c. per week.		Value of meal, at 1½ per lb.		Nurſing wages, per week.		Suſſion-pence per week,			Total charity per week.			Total of weekly ſubſiſtence.			Weekly ſubſiſtence per head, reckoning every ſoul.			Weekly ſubſiſtence, reckoning two children equal to one man.		
					s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	libs	s.	d.	libs	s.	d.	libs	s.	d.	libs	s.	d.	libs
1ſt Proportion, from Mr Brown's houſe to the head of Havannah on north ſide.																											
1. Margaret Robertſon, wife of Allan Bowes,	72	—	—	1	0	0	0	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	9	9	0	9	9	0	9	9	0	0	0
2. Flora M'Donald, widow Johnſton,	40	—	3	4	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	8	0	6	0	1	1	8	2	7	8	0	7	11	1	0	8
2d Proportion, from head of Havannah, &c.																													
3. Agnes Chapman, widow Wier, -	80	—	—	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	6	0	7	6	1	2	6	1	2	6	0	0	0
4. Rachel Fraſer, widow Craig, -	70	—	—	1	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	0	4	6	1	2	6	1	2	6	0	0	0
5. Mary M'Donald, . -	56	—	—	1	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	1	4	0	1	4	0	0	0	0
6. Alexander Bannerman and wife, -	48	1	5	7	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	1	9	0	4	9	0	0	8	4	1	6	8
7. William Buchanan, and wife aged 50,	69	1	2	4	4	0	0	3	9	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	1	6	9	5	6	9	1	4	8	1	10	3
8. Mary M'Gregor, lives with a daughter,	88	—	—	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	6	0	7	6	0	7	6	0	7	6	0	0	0
3d Proportion, from William Dun's land, &c.																													
9. Agnes Henderſon, widow Calder, -	70	—	—	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
10. Janet Smith, widow Gray, -	80	—	—	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
11. Betty Turnbull, confined to bed, -	40	—	—	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	7	6	1	4	6	1	4	6	1	4	6	0	0	0
12. Elizabeth Hay, -	84	—	—	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	0
13. Iſobel Jamieſon, widow Hill,	40	—	3	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	8	0	6	0	1	1	8	2	4	8	0	7	2	0	11	5

The Glaſgow pamphlet ſtates the maintenance of an infant as half that of a grown perſon. By this rule the number of the outpenſioned poor of Glaſgow may be reckoned as 779 grown people.

In the eighth chapter of Commiſſioner Smith's Wealth of Nations, it is mentioned that Mr Cantillon ſuppoſes that the maintenance of four children may be nearly equal to that of one man. By this rule the number of the outpenſioned poor of Glaſgow may be reckoned as 695 grown people.

This allowance appears very great: If the medium is taken, viz. That the maintenance of three children is equivalent to that of one man, it may perhaps be a juſter proportion than either. By this rule the number of outpenſioned poor in Glaſgow may be reckoned as 723 grown people.

On theſe different ſuppoſitions, the following table of the poor's earnings, alms, &c. is made out.

TABLE, ſhowing the numbers of the outpenſioned POOR in the different pariſhes of Glaſgow, their EARNINGS, the ALMS given them, &c. &c.

	Numbers.	Number of wives.	Ditto of children.	Total.	Earnings per week.			Private charity per week.				Quantity of meal.	Value of meal at 1½d. per lb.			Nurſing wages per week.		Weekly aſſiſtance from the ſeſſion.			Total charity per week.				Total of weekly charity per head.			Total ſubſiſtence of the poor per week.				Weekly ſubſiſtence per head.			Annual ſubſiſtence per head.			
					L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	12ths		L.	s.	d.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths
North,	96	16	69	181	4	3	9	0	11	6	6	114	0	14	3	4	0	2	11	6	0	4	1	3	6	0	5	4	8	5	0	6	0	10	10	2	7	5	0
Middle,	78	7	58	143	3	12	9	0	17	0	0	114	0	14	3	7	4	3	0	4	6	4	18	11	6	0	8	4	8	11	8	6	1	2	5	3	2	5	3
Eaſt,	54	18	41	113	2	3	4	0	8	6	6	74	0	9	3	12	0	1	9	11	6	2	19	9	0	0	6	4	5	3	1	0	0	10	10	2	7	5	0
South,	96	7	50	153	2	18	8	0	9	6	0	104	0	13	0	1	4	3	10	5	0	4	14	3	0	0	7	5	7	12	11	0	0	11	8	2	11	3	9
S. Weſt,	62	3	42	107	2	1	4	0	3	1	0	74	0	9	0	4	0	2	8	1	0	3	4	5	0	0	7	3	5	5	9	0	0	11	8	2	11	4	6
N. Weſt,	35	3	19	57	1	3	1	0	5	8	0	12	0	2	6	2	8	1	0	10	0	1	11	8	0	0	6	8	2	14	9	0	0	11	6	2	9	11	4
Weſt,	63	4	34	101	2	0	3	0	7	9	6	32	0	4	0	2	0	1	19	9	0	2	13	6	6	0	6	4	4	13	9	6	0	11	1	2	8	3	5
St Enoch,	62	7	23	92	1	12	8	0	6	2	6	66	0	8	3	0	8	1	17	11	0	2	13	0	6	0	6	10	4	5	8	6	0	11	2	2	8	5	3
Total,	546	65	336	947	19	15	10	3	9	4	0	598	3	14	9	34	0	23	7	7	0	26	16	11	0	0	6	9	46	12	9	0	0	11	9	2	11	2	7

TABLE, ſhowing the EARNINGS, the ASSISTANCE from the SESSION, the total ALMS, and SUBSISTENCE of the outpenſioned POOR of the city of Glaſgow.

	Earnings of the poor.								Aſſiſtance from the ſeſſion to the poor.								Alms given to the poor.								Subſiſtence of the poor.							
	per week.				per annum.				per week.				per annum.				per week.				per annum.				per week.				per annum.			
	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths
The poor,	19	15	10	0	1029	3	4	0	23	7	7	0	1215	14	4	0	26	16	11	0	1395	19	8	0	46	12	9	0	2425	3	5	0
611 Men and women, each,	0	0	7	9	1	13	8	3	0	0	9	2	1	19	9	7	0	0	10	6	2	5	8	4	0	1	6	3	3	19	4	7
947, The number of ſouls,	0	0	5	0	1	1	8	9	0	0	5	11	1	5	8	1	0	0	6	9	1	9	5	9	0	0	11	9	2	11	2	7
779, No. of grown people by 1ſt ſuppoſition,	0	0	6	1	1	6	4	11	0	0	7	2	1	11	2	5	0	0	8	3	1	15	10	0	0	1	2	4	3	2	3	2
695, Ditto by the 2d,	0	0	6	10	1	9	7	4	0	0	8	1	1	14	11	9	0	0	9	3	2	0	2	0	0	1	4	1	3	9	9	5
723, Ditto by the 3d,	0	0	6	6	1	8	5	7	0	0	7	8	1	13	7	6	0	0	8	10	1	18	7	4	0	1	3	5	3	7	1	0

[100

Theſe tables will give ſome tolerable data for forming an idea of the earnings that may be reaſonably expected of a pauper; but as the rates of wages are very various, in order to judge of the proper aſſiſtance neceſſary for the poor in different places, the rates of wages ſhould be attended to.

The labourer's family is ſuppoſed to conſiſt of himſelf, a wife, and four children; which is the number moſt writers reckon as the average of a labourer's family. The deductions are made according to the Glaſgow Citizen's calculations.

The average of a manufacturer's wages, according to Mr Arthur Young's tours, is L.0 8 0 per week,
That of a labourer, - - - - 0 7 $6\frac{8}{12}$

Various other rates are added in order to ſuit different places. The low ones were given to compare the earnings, &c. of the Exeter pamphlet.

As ſome people may object that few labourers families have four children who cannot earn any thing, another table is given, ſuppoſing only three children.

TABLE of COMPARISON of the Subſiſtence of a PAUPER and that of a DAY-LABOURER with a Wife and four Children. The Wife is ſuppoſed to ſpin one third of a day's work, which is equal to 5d. per week.

	Annual income per family.				Income per head, reckoning every ſoul.						Income per grown perſon, reckoning two children equal to one grown perſon.						Income per grown perſon, reckoning three children to one grown perſon.						Income per grown perſon, reckoning four children to one grown perſon.					
					Weekly.			Annual.			Weekly.			Annual.			Weekly.			Annual.			Weekly.			Annual.		
	L.	*s.*	*d.*	12ths	*s.*	*d.*	12ths	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	12ths	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	12ths	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	12ths	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*
1. A labourer at 2s. 6d. per week, his wife 5d.	7	11	8	0	0	5	9	1	5	3	0	8	9	1	17	11	0	10	6	2	5	6	0	11	8	2	10	6
Ditto with deductions,	5	12	3	0	0	4	3	0	18	8	0	6	5	1	8	0	9	7	9	1	13	8	2	8	7	1	17	5
2. A labourer at 3s. per week, &c.	8	17	8	0	0	6	10	1	9	7	0	10	3	2	4	5	0	1	3	2	13	3	8	1	1	2	19	2
Ditto with deductions,	6	18	3	0	0	5	3	1	3	0	0	7	11	1	14	6	9	0	9	2	1	5	9	0	10	2	6	1
3. A labourer at 3s. 6d. per week, &c.	10	3	8	0	0	7	10	1	13	11	0	11	9	2	10	11	0	1	3	3	7	10	8	1	2	3	1	1
Ditto with deductions,	8	4	3	0	0	6	3	1	7	4	0	9	5	2	1	0	9	0	11	4	2	9	3	2	1	0	7	2
4. A labourer at 4s. per week, &c.	11	9	8	0	0	8	10	1	18	3	1	1	3	2	17	5	0	1	3	10	3	8	10	10	1	5	8	3
Ditto with deductions,	9	10	3	0	0	7	3	1	11	8	0	10	11	2	7	6	9	1	1	2	2	17	0	11	1	2	7	3
5. A labourer at 4s. 6d. per week, &c.	12	15	8	0	0	9	10	2	2	7	1	2	9	3	3	11	0	1	5	8	3	16	8	5	1	7	8	4
Ditto with deductions,	10	16	3	0	0	8	3	1	16	0	6	1	0	5	2	14	0	9	1	2	11	3	4	10	11	1	4	7
6. A labourer at 5s. per week, &c.	14	1	8	0	0	10	10	2	6	11	4	1	4	3	3	10	5	0	1	7	6	4	4	6	0	1	9	10
Ditto with deductions,	12	2	3	0	0	9	3	2	0	4	6	1	1	11	3	0	6	9	1	4	9	3	12	8	2	1	6	7
7. A labourer at 5s. 6d. per week, &c.	15	7	8	0	0	11	10	2	11	3	4	1	6	3	3	19	5	0	1	9	3	4	12	3	8	1	11	8
Ditto with deductions,	13	8	3	0	0	10	3	2	4	8	6	1	3	5	3	7	0	9	1	6	6	4	0	5	9	1	8	7
8. A labourer at 6s. per week, &c.	16	13	8	0	1	0	10	2	15	7	4	1	7	3	4	3	5	0	1	10	4	4	17	1	3	2	0	10
Ditto with deductions,	14	14	3	0	0	11	3	2	9	0	6	1	4	11	3	13	6	9	1	5	5	4	8	3	4	1	10	7
9. A labourer at 6s. 6d. per week, &c.	17	19	8	0	1	1	10	2	19	11	4	1	8	9	4	9	11	0	2	0	10	5	7	10	10	2	3	8
Ditto with deductions,	16	0	3	0	1	0	3	2	13	4	6	1	6	5	4	0	0	9	1	10	2	4	16	0	11	2	0	7
10. A labourer at 7s. per week, &c.	19	5	8	0	1	2	10	3	4	3	4	1	10	3	4	16	5	0	2	2	8	5	15	8	5	2	5	8
Ditto with deductions,	17	6	3	0	1	1	3	2	17	8	6	1	7	11	4	6	6	9	1	11	11	5	3	10	6	2	2	7
11. A labourer at 7s. $6\frac{8}{12}$d. per week, &c.	20	14	6	8	1	3	11	3	9	1	1	1	11	11	5	3	7	8	2	4	8	6	4	4	5	2	7	10
Ditto with deductions,	18	15	1	8	1	2	3	3	2	6	3	1	9	7	4	13	9	5	2	1	11	5	12	6	6	2	4	10
12. A labourer at 8s. per week, &c.	21	17	8	0	1	4	10	3	12	11	4	2	1	3	5	9	5	0	2	6	3	6	11	3	8	2	9	8
Ditto with deductions,	19	18	3	0	1	3	3	3	6	4	6	1	10	11	4	19	6	9	2	3	5	5	18	11	9	2	6	7
A Glaſgow pauper, -	3	19	4	6	0	11	9	2	11	2	6	1	2	4	3	2	3	1	1	4	0	3	9	6	0	1	3	3

TABLE of COMPARISON of the ſubſiſtence of a PAUPER and that of a DAY-LABOURER with a Wife and three Children. The Wife is ſuppoſed to ſpin one-third of a day's work, which is equal to 5d. per week.

	Annual income per family.				Income per head, reckoning every ſoul.						Income per grown perſon, reckoning two children equal to one grown perſon.						Income per grown perſon, reckoning the maintenance of three children equal to that of one grown perſons.						Income per grown perſon, reckoning the maintenance of four children equal to that of one grown perſon.					
					Weekly.			Annual.			Weekly,			Annual.			Weekly.			Annual.			Weekly.			Annual.		
	L.	*s.*	*d.*	12*ths*	*s.*	*d.*	12*ths*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	12*ths*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	12*ths*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	12*ths*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	12*ths*
1. A labourer at 2s. 6d per week, his wife at 5d.	7	11	8	0	0	7	0	1	10	4	0	10	0	2	3	4	0	11	8	2	10	6	8	1	0	8	2	15	1	10
Ditto with deductions.	5	12	3	0	0	5	2	1	2	5	4	0	7	4	1	12	0	8	0	8	7	1	17	5	0	0	9	5	2	0	9	9
2. A labourer at 3s. per week, &c.	8	17	8	0	0	8	2	1	15	6	4	0	11	9	2	10	9	2	1	1	8	2	19	2	8	1	2	11	3	4	7	3
Ditto with deductions.	6	18	3	0	0	6	4	1	7	7	9	0	8	10	1	18	6	6	0	10	7	2	6	1	0	0	11	8	2	10	3	1
3. A labourer at 3s. 6d. per week, &c.	10	3	8	0	0	9	5	2	0	8	9	1	1	5	2	18	2	3	1	3	8	3	7	10	8	1	5	2	3	14	0	8
Ditto with deductions.	8	4	3	0	0	7	6	1	12	10	2	0	10	9	2	6	11	1	1	0	7	2	14	9	0	1	1	9	2	19	8	7
4. A labourer at 4s. per week, &c.	11	9	8	0	0	10	7	2	5	11	2	1	3	2	3	5	7	5	1	5	8	3	16	6	8	1	7	5	4	3	6	1
Ditto with deductions.	9	10	3	0	0	8	9	1	18	0	7	1	0	6	2	14	4	2	1	2	7	3	3	5	0	1	3	11	3	9	2	1
5. A labourer at 4s. 6d. per week, &c.	12	15	8	0	0	11	9	2	11	1	7	1	4	10	3	13	0	4	1	7	8	4	5	2	8	1	9	6	4	12	11	6
Ditto with deductions.	10	16	3	0	0	9	11	2	3	3	0	1	2	1	3	1	9	5	1	4	7	3	12	1	0	1	6	1	3	18	7	7
6. A labourer at 5s. per week, &c.	14	1	8	0	1	1	0	2	16	4	0	1	6	7	4	0	5	8	1	9	8	4	13	10	8	1	11	8	5	2	5	0
Ditto with deductions.	12	2	3	0	0	11	2	2	8	5	4	1	3	11	3	9	2	6	1	6	7	4	0	9	0	1	8	3	4	8	1	0
7. A labourer at 5s. 6d. per week, &c.	15	7	8	0	1	2	2	3	1	6	5	1	8	3	4	7	9	8	1	11	8	5	2	6	8	2	1	10	5	11	10	6
Ditto with deductions.	13	8	3	0	1	0	4	2	13	7	9	1	5	7	3	16	7	5	1	8	7	4	9	5	0	1	10	6	4	17	6	5
8. A labourer at 6s. per week, &c.	16	13	8	0	1	3	0	3	4	8	9	1	10	0	4	15	4	0	2	1	8	5	11	2	8	2	4	2	6	1	3	9
Ditto with deductions.	14	14	3	0	1	1	6	2	18	10	2	1	7	4	4	4	0	7	1	10	7	4	18	1	0	2	0	8	5	7	0	0
9. A labourer at 6s. 6d. per week, &c.	17	19	8	0	1	4	7	3	11	11	2	1	11	8	5	2	9	2	2	3	8	5	19	10	8	2	6	5	6	10	10	0
Ditto with deductions.	16	0	3	0	1	2	8	3	4	0	7	1	9	1	4	11	5	3	2	0	7	5	6	9	0	2	2	10	5	16	4	5
10. A labourer at 7s. per week, &c.	19	5	8	0	1	5	10	3	17	1	7	2	1	5	5	10	2	3	2	5	8	6	8	6	8	2	8	5	7	0	2	11
Ditto with deductions.	17	6	3	0	1	3	11	3	9	3	0	1	10	9	4	18	11	1	2	1	3	5	15	5	0	2	5	0	6	5	10	9
11. A labourer at 7s. $6\frac{8}{12}$d. per week, &c.	20	14	6	8	1	7	3	4	2	10	11	2	3	4	5	18	5	6	2	7	10	6	18	2	2	2	10	9	7	10	9	5
Ditto with deductions.	18	15	1	8	1	5	3	3	15	0	4	2	0	8	5	7	2	2	2	4	10	6	5	0	6	2	7	6	6	16	7	11
12. A labourer at 8s. per week, &c.	21	17	8	0	1	8	2	4	7	6	5	2	4	11	6	5	0	6	2	9	8	7	5	10	8	3	0	8	7	19	1	10
Ditto with deductions.	19	18	3	0	1	6	4	3	19	7	9	2	2	3	5	13	9	5	2	6	7	6	12	9	0	2	9	5	7	4	9	9

SOME REFLECTIONS

ON THE

POOR RATES.

THE diſtreſſes of the poor, and the heavy tax raiſed for their behoof, have been often lamented in various publications, and many conjectures have been made of the amount of that tax, and the quantum per pound in different places often mentioned; but in very few have the number of the poor aſſiſted by the rates been noticed: ſo that there is no data that can be depended on from which any judgment can be formed of the propriety of the ſum expended on the poor throughout the kingdom.

Dr Davenant ſays*, "That Mr Gregory King computes the poor at "400,000 families: in which account he includes the poor-houſes in "cities, towns, and villages; beſides, he reckons 30,000 vagrants; and "all theſe together make 1,300,000 heads. This is a great proportion "of the people to be a burden on the other part, and is a weight on the "land intereſt of which the landed gentlemen muſt be very ſenſible."

Dr Davenant likewiſe favoured the public with Mr Arthur Moore's calculations of the ſum raiſed by the poor's rate, amounting to L.665,362; *which affords Mr King's paupers ten ſhillings per head.*

Mr George Chalmers, in his reſearches after Mr King's papers, found ſome of his political obſervations in the Britiſh muſeum; among which are his Conjectures of the produce of the houſe-tax impoſed in 1696. "†Mr Gregory King computed, with his uſual preciſion, what the tax "would produce before it had yielded a penny.

"Thus

* Whitworth's Davenant, vol. ii. p. 203.

† Mr George Chalmers's Eſtimate of the Comparative Strength of Britain, p. 174, 8vo edit.

" Thus (ſays he), the number of inhabited houſes is			1,300,000
" Whereof under 10 windows,	-	980,000	
" under 20 ditto,	- -	270,000	
" above 20 ditto,	- -	50,000	
	Total		1,300,000
" Out of which deducing for thoſe who receive alms,		330,000	
" For thoſe not paying to church and poor,		380,000	
" For omiſſions, frauds, and defaulters,	-	40,000	
	Inſolvent,	750,000	
	Solvent,	550,000	
			1,300,000

" * About the year 1696, the clamour with regard to the poor, and " the burden of the poor's rate, having attracted the notice of the Com- " mons, they referred it to the Board of Trade, to conſider the fact, and " to report the remedy. The multiplicity of the poor, ſays Mr Locke, " (one of the commiſſioners), and the increaſe of the tax for their main- " tenance, is ſo general an obſervation and complaint, that it cannot be " doubted of; nor has it been only ſince the laſt war that this evil has " come upon us; it has been a growing burden on the kingdom theſe " many years; and the two laſt reigns felt the increaſe of it as well as " the preſent. If the cauſes of this evil be looked into, we humbly con- " ceive it will be found to have proceeded not from the ſcarcity of pro- " viſions nor want of employment of the poor; ſince the goodneſs of God " has bleſſed theſe times with plenty no leſs than the former, and a long " peace during theſe reigns gave us as plentiful a trade as ever. The " growth of the poor muſt therefore have ſome other cauſe; and it can " be nothing elſe but the *relaxation of diſcipline and corruption; virtue* " and *induſtry* being as conſtant companions on the one ſide, as *vice* and " *idleneſs* are on the other.

" † In July 1696, the Board of Trade applied to the two Archbiſhops ‡ " for the means of knowing the poor's rates of every pariſh, that they " may be made more uſeful.

" In December 1696, the Board repreſented to the King, that though " they had found many obſtructions from the various humours of pa- " riſhes, they had procured accounts from 4415 pariſhes; the rates where- " of amounted to - - L. 184,735 18 6

" Which led them to infer, that the ſupport of all the " poor muſt be yearly - - L. 400,000 0 0

" Of

* Mr Chalmers's Eſtimate of the Comparative Strength of Great Britain, p. 121, 4to edit.
† Ditto, p. 196.
‡ Note of ditto. See record, intitled, Domeſtic Trade.

" Of which we find paid by London, L. 40,000
" And by Briſtol, for maintaining 1000 to 1200
" paupers, - - L. 2350

[*By this account the Briſtol poor coſt from* L. 2, 7 *s. to* L. 1 : 19 : 2 *per head.*]

" We attribute the increaſe of the poor (ſay the Board) to the relaxa-
" tion of diſcipline, corruption of manners, and ill education of the
" poorer ſort; and more particularly to the execution, or rather perverſion,
" of the poor-law."—" Such was the reſult of the accurate inquiries of
" a Board of Trade, at which ſat Sir Philip Medows and Mr Locke."

It is not eaſy at preſent to form any conjecture of the proportion that thoſe who receive parochial aſſiſtance bear to the inhabitants in general; but it is to be imagined, that in large commercial cities like Briſtol and Glaſgow, the poor bear a greater proportion to the inhabitants than what they do in ſmaller towns, and much more ſo than in the country at large.

Dr Woodward, now (1787) Biſhop of Cloyne, who had opportunities of being well acquainted with Briſtol, ſtates the number of inhabitants at about 50,000; and the number of paupers, according to the report of the overſeers in 1775, were 2470.

Dr Macfarlan, in his judicious inquiries concerning the poor, ſays, that there are about 35,000 inhabitants in Glaſgow, and 2000 poor annually ſupplied by the public.

Mr Templeman computes the inhabitants of Scotland at 1,500,000; of whom he ſays 100,000 are ſolely ſupported at the expence of others.

But in order to get at the number of poor by any of theſe proportions, and learn the expence of their maintenance per head, the number of inhabitants muſt be fixed on, as well as the amount of the ſum raiſed for the poor; neither of which are as yet thoroughly aſcertained.

According to Mr King's computation, the numbers were	5,500,520
to Mr Poſtlethwayt's, - -	6,000,000
to Dr Price's, - - -	5,000,000
to Mr Howlet's, from the number of houſes, at $5\frac{4}{5}$ per houſe, - -	8,691,597
to ditto, from the number of people balloted for the militia, - -	7,900,000
to Mr Arthur Young's, - -	8,500,000

The amount of the poor's rate towards the end of the reign of King Charles II. according to Mr Moore, was - L. 665,362 0 0

By the return of the overſeers of the poor in 1776, the amount of the money raiſed by the rates was L. 1,720,316 14 7

Of which was expended on account of the poor, L. 1,441,435 11 0
But Mr Gilbert (on account of many pariſhes not having made returns) computed that there might be raiſed by the rates about - - L. 2,000,000 0 0
And ſuppoſing that the money expended on the poor was in the ſame proportion as in the overſeers returns, there ſhould have been expended on them about L. 1,769,130 0 0

In the year 1786, Mr Gilbert, ſtill moſt laudably anxious to obtain ſome beneficial alterations in the poor laws, moved in the Houſe of Commons for leave to bring in a bill for another return from the overſeers of the poor. In a pamphlet he then publiſhed, he computes that the poor rates had increaſed to - - L. 2,500,000
And ſuppoſing that the money applied on account of the poor was in the ſame proportion as in the overſeers returns in 1776, the ſum expended on them would be about L. 2,211,412

TABLE

TABLE, ſhowing the number of Houſes in England and Wales and the number of Inhabitants, as publiſhed by Davenant, and a conjecture of the number of Paupers according to Mr Gregory King's proportion of 1,072,500 Paupers to 5,500,000 Inhabitants, and the amount of the Poor's rate according to Mr Arthur Moore; and likewiſe the number of Inhabitants according to Mr Howlet's ſuppoſition of five two-fifths per houſe, and a conjecture of the Paupers according to the Briſtol proportion, viz. 2,470 Paupers to 50,000 Inhabitants.

NAMES OF COUNTIES.	Number of houſes.	Number of inhabitants, reckoning four one-thirteenth to a houſe.	Number of paupers, according to Mr King's proportion.	Amount of poor's rate, according to Mr Moore.	Expence of paupers per head. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Number of paupers, according to the Briſtol proportion.	Expence per head. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Number of inhabitants, according to Mr Howlet, at five two-fifths per houſe.	Number of paupers, according to the Briſtol proportion.	Expence of do. paupers per head. L.	s.	d.	12ths
1. Bedfordſhire, -	12,170	49,616	9,675	6,911	0	14	3	5	2,451	2	16	4	8	65,720	3,246	2	2	6	11
2. Berkſhire, -	16,996	69,291	13,511	9,800	0	14	6	0	3,423	2	17	3	0	91,778	4,533	2	3	2	10
3. Buckinghamſhire, -	18,688	76,190	14,857	14,800	0	19	11	1	3,763	3	18	7	11	100,914	4,985	2	19	4	6
4. Cambridgeſhire, -	18,629	75,950	14,812	9,128	0	12	3	10	3,752	2	8	7	10	100,595	4,969	1	16	8	10
5. Cheſhire, - - -	25,592	104,337	20,345	5,796	0	5	8	4	5,154	1	2	5	10	138,196	6,826	0	16	11	9
6. Cornwall, - -	26,613	108,499	21,157	9,257	0	8	9	4	5,360	1	14	6	6	143,709	7,099	1	6	0	11
7. Cumberland, - -	15,279	62,279	12,144	4,988	0	8	2	6	3,076	1	12	5	2	82,505	4,075	1	4	5	8
8. Derbyſhire, - - -	24,944	101,695	19,830	7,953	0	8	0	3	5,024	1	11	8	0	134,696	6,653	1	3	10	10
9. Devonſhire, - -	56,202	229,131	44,680	34,764	0	15	6	8	11,319	3	1	5	1	303,090	14,972	2	6	5	3
10. Dorſetſhire, - - -	17,859	72,809	14,197	13,885	0	19	6	8	3,597	3	17	2	5	96,437	4,763	2	18	3	7
11. Durham and Northumberland,	53,345	217,483	42,409	13,620	0	6	5	0	10,743	1	5	4	0	288,065	14,230	0	19	1	8
12. Eſſex, - - - -	40,545	165,298	32,233	37,348	1	3	2	1	8,165	4	11	5	9	218,943	10,815	3	9	0	9
13. Glouceſterſhire, - -	34,476	140,556	27,408	19,600	0	14	3	7	6,943	2	16	5	6	186,170	9,196	2	2	7	6
14. Herefordſhire, -	16,744	68,263	13,311	8,687	0	13	0	7	3,372	2	11	6	3	80,436	3,973	2	3	8	9
15. Hertfordſhire, - -	17,488	71,297	13,902	10,760	0	13	5	9	3,522	3	1	1	2	94,434	4,665	2	6	1	6
16. Huntingtonſhire, -	8,713	35,522	6,926	5,850	0	16	10	8	1,754	3	6	8	5	47,089	2,326	2	10	3	7
17. Kent, - -	46,674	190,286	37,105	29,875	0	16	1	2	9,400	3	3	6	9	252,038	12,450	2	7	11	10
18. Lancaſhire, - -	46,961	191,456	37,333	7,200	0	3	10	3	9,458	0	15	2	9	253,589	12,527	0	11	5	11
19. Leiceſterſhire, - - -	20,448	83,365	16,256	11,600	0	14	3	3	4,118	2	16	4	0	110,418	5,454	2	2	6	7
20. Lincolnſhire, - -	45,019	183,539	35,790	31,500	0	17	7	2	9,066	3	9	5	10	233,101	11,515	2	12	11	8
Carried forward,	563,385	2,296,862	447,881	293,322					113,460					3,021,923	149,272				

Continuation of the TABLE ſhowing the number of Houſes in England and Wales and the number of Inhabitants, &c.

NAMES OF COUNTIES.	Number of houſes.	Number of inhabitants, reckoning four one-thirteenth to a houſe.	Number of paupers, according to Mr King's proportion.	Amount of poor's rate, according to Mr Moore.	Expence of paupers per head.				Number of paupers, according to the Briſtol proportion.	Expence per head.				Number of inhabitants, according to Mr Howlet, at five two-fifths per houſe.	Number of paupers, according to the Briſtol proportion.	Expence of do. paupers per head.			
					L.	s.	d.	12ths		L.	s.	d.	12ths			L.	s.	d.	12ths
Brought over,	563,385	2,296,862	447,881	293,322					113,460					3,021,923	149,272				
21. Northamptonſhire, -	26,904	109,685	21,388	21,516	1	0	1	5	5,418	3	19	5	0	145,280	7,176	2	19	11	7
22. Nottinghamſhire, - -	17,818	72,642	14,165	11,760	0	16	7	3	3,588	3	5	6	2	96,936	4,788	2	4	11	4
23. Norfolk, - - -	56,579	230,668	44,980	46,200	1	0	6	7	11,395	4	1	1	0	305,525	15,092	3	1	2	8
24. Oxfordſhire, - -	19,627	80,017	15,603	7,950	0	10	2	3	3,953	2	0	2	8	105,985	5,235	1	10	4	5
25. Rutland, - -	3,661	14,925	2,910	3,730	1	5	7	7	737	5	1	2	7	19,769	976	3	16	5	2
26. Salop, - -	27,471	111,997	21,839	13,375	0	12	2	0	5,532	2	8	4	3	148,343	7,328	1	16	6	0
27. Staffordſhire, - -	26,278	107,113	20,887	7,150	0	6	10	1	5,291	1	7	0	3	131,901	6,515	1	1	11	4
28. Somerſetſhire, - -	45,900	187,130	36,483	30,263	0	16	7	1	9,244	3	5	5	8	247,860	12,244	2	9	5	2
29. Southamptonſhire, -	28,557	116,425	22,703	13,173	0	11	7	3	5,751	2	5	9	8	154,207	7,617	1	14	7	0
30. Suffolk, - - -	47,537	193,805	37,791	25,750	0	13	7	6	9,574	2	13	9	5	256,699	12,680	2	0	7	4
31. Surry, - -	40,610	165,564	32,284	15,600	0	9	7	7	8,178	1	18	1	9	219,294	10,833	1	8	9	7
32. Suſſex, - - -	23,451	95,608	18,643	18,720	1	0	0	11	4,723	3	19	3	3	126,635	6,255	2	19	10	3
33. Warwickſhire, - -	22,700	92,546	18,046	9,800	0	10	10	11	4,571	2	2	10	6	122,580	6,055	1	12	4	5
34. Worceſterſhire, - -	24,440	99,640	19,429	10,640	0	10	11	5	4,922	2	3	2	9	131,976	6,519	1	12	7	8
35. Wiltſhire, - - -	27,418	111,781	21,797	18,240	0	16	8	10	5,522	3	6	0	9	148,057	7,314	2	9	10	6
36. Weſtmoreland, -	6,691	27,278	5,319	1,890	0	7	1	3	1,347	1	8	0	9	36,131	1,784	1	1	2	5
37. Yorkſhire, - -	121,052	493,519	96,236	26,150	0	5	5	2	24,379	1	1	5	5	653,680	32,091	0	16	3	6
38. London, Middleſex, &c.	111,215	453,415	88,415	56,380	0	12	9	0	22,398	2	10	4	0	600,561	29,667	1	18	0	1
39. Wales (North and South),	77,921	317,678	61,947	33,753	0	10	10	9	15,693	2	3	0	2	420,773	20,786	1	12	5	8
Totals,	1,319,215	5,378,298	1,048,746	665,362	0	12	8	3	265,676	2	10	1	0	7,094,115	350,227	1	17	11	2

An Account of the RETURNS of the OVERSEERS of the POOR in England and Wales, in purſuance of an act of Parliament 1776.

NAMES of COUNTIES.	Number of pariſhes returned.	Number of pariſhes who have no poor.	Number of pariſhes who have no aſſeſſment.	Number of pariſhes who made no returns.	Total number of pariſhes named.	Money raiſed by the poor's rate,	Money expended out of the poor's rate for county rates, &c.	Money applied on account of the poor.	Of which expended in litigations.	Of which paid for rent of houſes, &c.	Remains for the maintenance of the poor.
							L. s. d.	L. s. d.	L. s. d.	L. s. d.	L. s. d.
1. Bedfordſhire,	134	—	—	—	134	18,193 9 4	1,333 13 4	16,662 17 1	352 15 9	486 5 3	15,823 16 1
2. Berkſhire,	193	2	1	5	198	39,726 0 1	1,954 14 3	36,718 2 8	729 4 2	2,424 0 0	33,564 18 6
3. Buckinghamſhire,	225	—	—	—	225	37,052 18 1	3,328 8 10	31,798 14 5	668 4 0	1,194 7 1	29,936 3 4
4. Cambridgeſhire,	173	—	1	2	175	20,342 1 8	2,036 13 3	18,092 8 7	363 19 0	856 5 1	16,872 4 6
5. Cheſhire, -	490	10	—	—	490	31,016 1 10	980 4 8	29,659 16 10	737 0 8	4,006 5 6	24,916 10 8
6. Cornwall, -	215	—	2	—	215	25,504 7 9	2,749 8 2	22,598 4 6	601 9 9	925 4 6	21,071 10 3
7. Cumberland,	215	5	2	—	215	8,389 3 8	158 11 1	8,029 19 2	627 2 1	612 4 7	6,790 12 6
8. Derbyſhire,	311	4	1	—	311	18,503 14 9	881 5 5	17,441 1 8	670 7 10	1,373 1 7	15,397 12 3
9. Devonſhire,	472	—	—	—	472	72,352 18 9	5,554 11 4	62,481 2 6	1,454 7 9	1,089 14 8	59,937 0 1
10. Dorſetſhire,	274	1	—	—	274	27,415 5 1	1,706 16 6	24,538 5 8	493 12 10	1,163 13 11	22,880 18 11
11. Durham, -	387	11	—	—	387	19,408 18 9	4,411 2 9	14,441 0 2	384 10 7	695 9 1	13,361 0 6
12. Eſſex, -	515	—	1	—	515	88,098 6 2	13,255 7 3	74,067 3 5	1,499 9 7	3,034 4 5	69,533 9 5
13. Glouceſterſhire,	360	—	1	—	360	59,158 6 9	2,807 9 9	53,812 3 1	939 16 6	3,209 15 3	49,662 11 4
14. Herefordſhire,	252	2	1	—	252	11,674 11 1	927 15 11	10,193 7 2	272 17 7	1,190 8 0	8,730 1 7
15. Hertfordſhire,	141	—	—	—	141	31,577 15 1	4,949 17 8	25,486 9 0	245 16 6	899 13 3	24,340 19 3
16. Huntingtonſhire,	103	—	1	—	103	9,126 4 6	1,273 0 2	7,659 3 11	145 19 9	360 10 5	7,152 13 9
17. Kent, -	386	2	1	5	391	87,137 19 9	5,778 2 4	80,150 10 0	1,320 4 2	4,268 6 0	74,561 19 10
18. Lancaſhire, -	410	—	—	—	410	56,163 3 6	2,590 12 11	52,372 17 2	1,387 16 7	7,435 10 0	43,549 10 7
19. Leiceſterſhire,	231	3	1	—	231	26,360 0 11	1,966 1 5	24,399 9 4	818 5 6	1,267 5 1	22,313 18 9
20. Lincolnſhire,	704	—	8	—	704	35,623 2 1	2,742 6 8	31,912 18 4	645 8 8	1,385 13 4	29,881 16 4
21. Middleſex,	103	—	—	—	103	89,108 3 3	8,514 12 10	80,237 18 0	1,147 12 0	1,359 11 3	77,730 14 9
22. City of London,	108	—	—	1	109	52,861 6 5	2,824 19 7	49,067 0 2	770 17 5	796 11 9	47,499 11 0
Carried forward,	6402	40	21	13	6415	864,793 17 9	72,725 16 1	771,820 12 10	16,276 18 8	40,034 0 0	715,509 14 2

Continuation of the Account of the RETURNS of the OVERSEERS of the POOR in England and Wales.

NAMES of COUNTIES.	Number of parishes returned.	Number of parishes who have no poor.	Number of parishes who have no assessment.	Number of parishes who made no returns.	Total number of parishes named.	Money raised by the poors rate.			Money expended out of the poors rate for for county expences.			Money applied on account of the poor.			Of which expended in litigations.			Of which paid for rent of houses, &c.			Remains for the maintenance of the poor.		
						L.	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*d.*	*s.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*
Brought over,	6402	40	21	13	6415	864,793	17	9	672,725	16	1	771,820	12	10	16,276	18	8	40,034	0	0	715,509	14	2
23. Weſtminſter,	8	—	—	—	8	47,906	16	6	1,923	18	11	44,969	3	1	229	2	9	1,575	6	4	43,164	14	0
24. Monmouthſhire,	153	3	1	—	153	7,468	1	6	1,456	10	11	5,575	1	7	142	9	6	334	9	11	5,098	2	2
25. Norfolk, -	727	2	1	—	727	83,739	4	10	6.700	19	8	64,171	13	10	1,000	18	6	3,737	17	3	59,432	18	1
26. Northamptonſhire,	334	—	1	—	334	38,899	8	2	2,709	4	11	35,232	15	8	600	8	4	1,648	1	1	32,984	6	3
27. Northumberland,	523	34	1	—	523	15,057	0	3	181	9	9	14,698	12	0	613	8	8	337	10	11	13,747	12	5
28. Nottinghamſhire,	266	10	—	—	266	14,684	3	9	2,530	11	8	11,914	4	9	249	2	9	752	17	0	10,912	5	0
29. Oxfordſhire,	278	1	1	3	281	31,154	12	7	1,548	18	0	28,750	4	9	619	7	2	1,754	6	6	26,376	11	1
30. Rutlandſhire.	53	—	1	—	53	2,886	19	7	247	14	4	2,664	6	6	23	2	5	158	0	5	2,483	3	8
31. Salop. -	237	1	1	—	237	25,443	7	9	2,574	3	5	22,316	10	1	767	10	9	1,707	14	10	19,841	4	6
32. Somerſetſhire,	481	4	—	—	481	57,897	10	0	4,811	10	0	50,491	5	3	1,310	7	2	1,722	1	8	47,458	16	5
33. Southampton,	326	1	—	—	326	54,814	12	9	4,512	5	6	48,928	8	2	1,330	8	1	2,354	17	3	45,243	2	10
34. Staffordſhire,	249	5	1	—	249	35,986	9	10	3,314	18	5	32,088	7	1	999	1	1	1,589	5	5	29,500	0	7
35. Suffolk, -	509	—	—	9	518	62,696	15	9	4,064	12	10	56,804	0	5	965	6	11	1,558	1	8	54,280	11	10
36. Surry, -	145	—	—	7	152	57,302	13	9	5,570	11	10	49,743	19	8	1,233	18	5	1,588	2	1	46,921	19	2
37. Suſſex, -	304	—	2	9	313	61,564	11	3	5,613	0	4	54,734	8	7	1,235	10	5	3,915	19	0	49,582	19	2
38. Warwickſhire,	246	5	—	2	248	48,329	19	3	3,860	4	11	44,070	11	0	1,484	0	7	2,165	0	0	40,421	10	5
39. Weſtmoreland,	110	1	1	—	110	3,041	16	6	166	8	2	2,834	14	0	67	10	4	230	18	2	2,536	5	6
40. Wiltſhire,	327	—	—	—	327	57,747	1	2	2,579	2	1	54,021	10	10	1,307	1	5	3,866	2	4	48,848	7	1
41. Worceſterſhire,	229	—	—	—	229	29,757	16	9	2,024	18	6	26,906	7	5	750	9	11	1,566	2	10	24,589	14	8
42. York, E. Riding,	436	16	5	—	436	11,622	17	3	251	13	0	11,036	9	7	232	10	7	684	18	9	10,119	0	3
43. Do. N. Riding,	519	25	4	—	519	13,352	14	3	246	2	1	12,702	4	1	547	17	10	824	17	9	11,329	8	6
44. Do. W. Riding,	621	12	3	—	621	53,436	8	10	1,773	3	7	50,688	1	5	1,939	5	9	4,069	12	10	44,679	2	10
Total,	13,484	160	44	43	13,527	1,679,585	0	0	131,387	18	11	1,497,163	12	7	33,925	18	0	78,176	4	0	1,385,061	10	7

An Account of the RETURNS of the OVERSEERS of the POOR in WALES, in pursuance of an act of Parliament 1776.

COUNTIES.	Number of parishes returned.	Number of parishes who have no poor.	Number of parishes who have no assessment.	Number of parishes who made no returns.	Total number of parishes.	Money raised by the poor's rates.	Money expended out of the poor's rates for county rates, &c.	Money applied on account of the poor.	Of which expended in litigations.	Of which paid for rent of houses.	Remains for the maintenance of the poor.
						L. s. d.	L. s. d.	L. s. d.	L. s. d.	L. s. d	L. s. d.
1. Anglesey,	32	28	9	—	32	219 15 4	44 17 6	169 1 9	2 6 8	2 12 0	164 3 1
2. Brecon,	107	—	—	—	107	2852 2 9	320 14 7	2407 15 2	109 11 0	182 5 11	2115 18 3
3. Cardigan,	89	1	1	—	89	1267 0 5	139 2 1	1084 18 1	68 15 0	16 7 0	999 16 1
4. Carmarthen,	96	—	—	5	101	3852 8 5	780 2 4	2948 4 8	51 14 5	27 11 0	2868 19 3
5. Carnarvon,	51	—	21	—	51	237 6 1	44 16 9	471 17 6	89 10 11	13 5 6	365 1 1
6. Denbigh,	74	1	—	—	74	6734 13 4	1158 8 1	5364 14 5	131 0 8	358 10 2	4875 3 11
7. Flint,	46	—	—	—	46	4944 1 11	795 6 6	4043 12 0	65 10 10	284 18 11	3693 2 0
8. Glamorgan,	179	5	—	1	180	6367 1 11	897 14 7	5300 19 11	154 10 1	336 18 8	4809 11 2
9. Merioneth,	32	—	—	—	32	1068 18 1	34 1 9	1036 16 5	9 7 6	39 17 4	987 11 7
10. Montgomery,	117	—	—	—	117	5864 7 0	237 4 2	5508 15 7	201 5 1	630 17 4	4676 13 2
11. Pembroke,	143	1	—	—	143	4179 0 9	1052 18 6	3049 8 3	87 6 8	53 14 9	2908 0 10
12. Radnor,	64	—	—	—	64	3144 18 7	763 4 11	2254 9 11	165 3 10	173 12 0	1915 14 1
Total,	1030	36	31	6	1036	40,731 14 7	6268 11 9	33,640 13 8	1136 2 8	2120 10 7	30,384 0 5
Tot. of England,	13,484	160	44	43	13,527	1,679,585 0 0	131,387 18 11	1,523,163 12 7	33,935 18 0	78,176 4 0	1,411,051 10 7
Total of both,	14,514	196	75	49	14,563	1,720,316 14 7	137,656 10 8	1,556,804 6 3	35,072 0 8	80,296 14 7	1,441,435 11 0

As ſome readers may be inclined to conſider the expences per head according to the ſeveral ſuppoſitions of numbers, as well as the amount of the rates, who perhaps may not have time to make the neceſſary calculations, the following tables are given in order to ſave them that trouble.

The firſt ſet of tables are on the ſuppoſition of Mr Arthur Moore's amount of the poor rates, L. 665,362.

Table I.

Number of Inhabitants.		Paupers.	Ann. expence per head. L.	s.	d.	12ths
5,500,000	According to Mr King's proportion, as mentioned by Davenant, - - -	1,330,000	0	10	0	0
	According to Mr Chalmers's account of Mr King's proportion, - - -	1,072,500	0	12	4	10
	According to Mr Templeman's proportion, -	366,666	1	16	3	8
	to the Glaſgow, - -	314,285	2	2	4	1
	to the Briſtol, - - -	217,700	2	8	11	9

Table II.

6,000,000	According to Mr King's proportion, as mentioned by Davenant, - - -	1,540,362	0	9	2	0
	Mr King's proportion, according to Chalmers,	1,170,000	0	11	4	5
	Mr Templeman's proportion, - -	400,000	1	13	3	2
	The Glaſgow, - - -	342,857	1	18	9	9
	The Briſtol, - - - -	296,400	2	4	10	9

The ſecond ſet of tables are made for the different number of inhabitants, and on the ſuppoſition that the money expended on the poor was according to the overſeers returns in 1776.

Table I. of the Second Set.

Reckoning the number of inhabitants 5,000,000, the expence of the poor L. 1,521,732.

Number of Inhabitants.		Paupers.	Annual expence per head. L.	s.	d.	12ths
5,000,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1.209,090	1	5	1	11
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	975,000	1	11	2	6
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	333,333	4	11	3	7
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	285,714	5	6	6	2
	The Briſtol, - - -	247,000	6	3	2	5

Number of inhabitants.		Paupers.	Annual expence per head. L.	s.	d.	farths
	TABLE II. of the SECOND SET.					
5,500,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant,	1,329,874	1	2	10	6
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	1,072,500	1	9	9	3
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	366,666	4	3	0	0
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	314,285	4	16	9	0
	The Briſtol, - - - -	271,708	5	12	0	0
	TABLE III. of the SECOND SET.					
6,000,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1,450,771	1	0	11	6
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	1,170,000	1	6	0	0
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	400,000	3	16	1	0
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	342,857	4	8	9	0
	The Briſtol, - - - -	296,400	5	2	8	0
	TABLE IV. of the SECOND SET.					
6,500,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1,571,668	0	19	4	3
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	1,267,500	1	4	0	0
	Templeton's proportion, - -	433,333	3	10	2	9
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	371,428	4	1	11	3
	The Briſtol, - - - - -	321,100	4	14	9	3
	TABLE V. of the SECOND SET.					
7,000,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1,692,566	0	17	11	6
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	1,365,000	1	2	3	6
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	466,666	3	5	2	6
	The Glaſgow, - - -	400,000	3	16	1	0
	The Briſtol, - - - -	345,800	4	8	0	0
	TABLE VI. of the SECOND SET.					
7,500,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1,813,463	0	16	9	3
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	1,462,500	1	0	9	6
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	500,000	3	0	10	6
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	428,571	3	11	0	0
	The Briſtol, - - - -	370,500	4	2	0	3
	TABLE VII. of the SECOND SET.					
8,000,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1,934,361	0	15	8	8
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	1,560,000	0	19	6	3
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	533,333	2	17	0	9
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	457,142	3	6	6	9
	The Briſtol, - - - -	395,200	3	17	0	0

Table VIII. of the Second Set.

Number of inhabitants.		Paupers.	Annual expence per head. L.	s.	d.	12ths
8,500,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	2,055,258	0	14	9	6
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	1,657,500	0	18	4	3
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	566,666	2	13	8	3
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	486,714	3	2	6	3
	The Briſtol, - - - - -	419,900	3	12	5	9

The next ſet of Tables are made out on ſuppoſition that the expence of the Poor amounts to L. 1,769,130.

Table I. of the Third Set.

Number of inhabitants.		Paupers.	Annual expence per head. L.	s.	d.	12ths
5,000,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1,209,090	1	9	3	0
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	975,000	1	16	3	3
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	333,333	5	6	1	9
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	285,714	6	3	10	0
	The Briſtol, - - - -	247,000	7	3	2	9

Table II. of the Third Set.

5,500,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1,329,874	1	6	6	3
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - - -	1,072,500	1	12	11	10
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	366,666	4	16	6	0
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	314,285	5	12	6	9
	The Briſtol, - - -	271,700	6	10	11	6

Table III. of the Third Set.

6,000,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1,450,771	1	4	4	6
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	1,170,000	1	10	2	9
	Templeman's proportion, - -	400,000	4	8	5	3
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	342,857	5	3	2	6
	The Briſtol, - - - - -	296,400	5	9	4	3

Table IV. of the Third Set.

6,500,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1,571,668	1	2	6	0
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	1,267,500	1	7	10	9
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	433,333	4	1	7	9
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	371,428	4	15	3	0
	The Briſtol, - - - -	321,100	5	10	2	3

Number of inhabitants.	Table V. of the Third Set.	Paupers.	Annual expence per head. L.	s.	d.	12ths
7,000,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1,692,566	1	0	10	6
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	1,365,000	1	5	11	0
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	466,666	3	15	9	6
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	400,000	4	8	5	3
	The Briſtol, - - - - -	345,800	5	2	3	9
	Table VI. of the Third Set.					
7,500,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1,813,463	0	19	6	0
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	1,462,500	1	4	2	3
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	500,000	3	10	9	3
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	428,571	4	2	7	6
	The Briſtol, - - - - -	370,500	4	15	5	9
	Table VII. of the Third Set.					
8,000,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1,934,361	0	18	3	3
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	1,560,000	1	2	8	0
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	533,333	3	6	4	0
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	457,142	3	17	5	6
	The Briſtol, - - - - -	395,200	4	9	6	3
	Table VIII. of the Third Set.					
8,500,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	2,055,258	0	17	2	0
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	1,657,500	1	1	11	3
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	566,666	3	2	5	3
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	486,714	3	12	10	9
	The Briſtol, - - - - -	419,900	4	4	3	0

The laſt ſet of Tables are made out on the ſuppoſition that the money expended on account of the Poor amounted to L. 2,221,413.

Number of inhabitants.	Table I. of the Fourth Set.	Paupers.	Annual expence per head. L.	s.	d.	12ths
5,000,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1,209,090	1	16	6	9
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	975,000	2	5	6	9
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	333,333	6	12	8	0
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	285,714	7	14	5	0
	The Briſtol, - - - - -	247,000	8	19	3	0

Number of inhabitants.		Paupers.	Annual expence per head. L.	s.	d.	qrtr.
	TABLE II. of the FOURTH SET.					
5,500,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1,329,874	1	13	3	9
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - - -	1,072,500	2	1	5	1
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	366,666	6	0	7	3
	The Glaſgow, - - - - -	314,285	7	0	8	6
	The Briſtol, - - - - -	271,700	8	2	9	3
	TABLE III. of the FOURTH SET.					
6,000,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1,450,771	1	10	5	0
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	1,170,000	1	17	5	3
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	400,000	5	10	6	9
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	342,857	6	8	11	6
	The Briſtol, - - - - -	296,400	7	9	2	6
	TABLE IV. of the FOURTH SET.					
6,500,000	King's proportion, according to Davenent, -	1,571,668	1	8	1	6
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - - -	1,267,500	1	15	0	6
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	433,333	5	2	0	9
	The Glaſgow, - - - - -	371,428	5	19	0	9
	The Briſtol, - - - - -	321,100	6	17	8	9
	TABLE V. of the FOURTH SET.					
7,000,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1,692,566	1	6	1	6
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	1,365,000	1	12	6	6
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	466,666	4	14	9	3
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	400,000	5	10	6	6
	The Briſtol, - - - - -	345,800	6	7	10	9
	TABLE VI. of the FOURTH SET.					
7,500,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1,813,463	1	4	4	6
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	1,462,500	1	10	4	6
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	500,000	4	8	5	3
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	428,571	5	3	3	6
	The Briſtol, - - - - -	370,500	5	19	4	3
	TABLE VII. of the FOURTH SET.					
8,000,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	1,934,361	1	2	10	3
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - - -	1,560,000	1	8	5	9
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	533,333	4	2	11	0
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	457,140	4	16	10	0
	The Briſtol, - - - - -	395,200	5	11	10	9

Number of inhabitants.	TABLE VIII. of the FOURTH SET.	Paupers.	Annual expence per head. L.	s.	d.	frs.
8,500,000	King's proportion, according to Davenant, -	2,055,258	1	1	6	0
	Ditto, according to Chalmers, - -	1,657,500	1	6	9	6
	Templeman's proportion, - - -	566,666	3	18	0	6
	The Glaſgow, - - - -	486,714	4	10	10	5
	The Briſtol, - - -	419,900	5	5	3	9

THE diligence and attention of the overſeers is commonly judged of by the quantum per pound of the poor's rate in different places; but it perhaps may not be a juſt criterion, as poſſibly the poor, in thoſe places where the rates are reckoned moderate, get more ample allowance than in others where that tax is thought enormous. Though it is a perfect axiom, that "no one applying for aſſiſtance from the pariſh, is intitled to better "maintenance than thoſe who ſupport themſelves by their labour;" yet it is to be feared that it is ſometimes overlooked, if any judgment can be formed from the poor-rates in ſome places where Mr Howlet's aſſiduity has given the public the number of inhabitants. Although he has not mentioned the number of paupers, yet there ſurely cannot be any great miſtake if it is ſuppoſed that the poor in thoſe places do not exceed the proportion that the poor of Briſtol bear to its inhabitants; and if the expence per head exceeds the maintenance of a labourer, there certainly muſt be ſome error in the management of the overſeers in thoſe places.

TABLE

TABLE, ſhowing the number of Houſes in ſeveral Pariſhes in different parts of the Kingdom and the number of Inhabitants, taken from Mr Howlet's Table ſhowing the number of perſons to a Houſe; and likewiſe the money collected by the Poor's rates within the year, ending at Eaſter 1776, and the money expended out of them in County-rates, in Litigations, and in the actual maintenance of the Poor, taken from the Overſeers Returns to the Houſe of Commons. The conjecture of the number of Paupers in the ſeveral Pariſhes is made from the proportion that the Poor of Briſtol bear to the Inhabitants, viz. 2470 Paupers to 50,000 Inhabitants.

COUNTIES.	PARISHES.	Number of houſes.	Number of inhabitants.	Number of paupers.	Amount of poor's rates.			County expence.			Expence of litigations.			Expended on the poor.			Expence per head.		
					L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.
Cheſhire, -	1. Burton, - -	95	448	22	30	1	4	—			1	8	11	35	3	1	1	11	11
	Ditto in Eddiſbury, 2d diviſion,	95	448	22	25	5	6	—			—			25	5	6	1	2	11
	2. Eaſtham, - -	212	1,084	53	50	7	10	—			13	10	0	36	17	10	0	13	11
	3. Cheſter, - -	2883	14,713	726	1,178	16	9	—			22	7	2	1,126	17	8	1	11	0
Cornwall, -	4. St Keverne, - -	418	1,688	83	262	13	0	33	8	0	3	12	0	225	13	0	2	14	4
Devonſhire, -	5. Newton Ferrars, -	104	466	23	158	12	0	10	14	6	0	1	0	105	4	11	4	1	6
Eſſex, -	6. Toppesfield, - -	105	624	30	272	7	1	21	4	8	17	8	10	206	15	3	6	17	10
	7. Little Baddow, -	64	352	17	169	0	11	32	3	2		—		148	16	9	8	15	1
Kent, -	8. Maidſtone *, - -	1106	5,650	279	1,547	11	9		—			—		1,555	7	10	4	2	9
	9. Marden, - -	225	1,173	57	484	10	2	76	4	3	34	16	6	383	9	5	6	14	6
	10. Farningham, - -	56	280	13	108	13	3	19	3	10	10	3	1	82	7	11	6	6	8
	11. Boughton Alup †, -	87	495	24	171	15	0	2	2	0	0	15	4	138	16	9	5	15	8
	Ditto Under the Blean,	87	495	24	466	4	0	6	10	8	2	14	11	451	3	4	19	8	6
	Ditto Malheb, -	87	495	24	270	12	0		—			—		219	10	0	9	2	11
	Ditto Monchelſea, -	87	495	24	238	16	1	12	1	2		—		234	5	9	9	19	0
	12. Teſton, - - -	26	145	7	64	7	8	2	12	2	5	16	6	57	5	3	8	3	7
	13. Tunſtall *, - -	17	115	5	117	18	0	1	15	10		—		128	9	3	25	13	10
Lancaſhire, -	14. Manchester *, - -	4268	27,246	1345	3,047	7	4		—		42	6	3	3,280	8	10	2	8	9
	15. Liverpool, - -	6340	34,407	1699	3,333	0	0		—		72	4	5	2,971	14	0	1	14	11
	16. Rainford, - -	221	961	47	191	14	6	30	10	7	3	12	6	149	3	9	3	3	5
	Ditto, - - -	221	961	47	203	11	6	15	0	0	43	12	3	142	18	8	3	0	9
Norfolk, -	17. Norwich, - -	7139	36,169	1786	10,555	11	10		—			—		9,118	7	4	5	2	1
	Ditto, - -	7139	40,000	1976	—				—			—		9,118	7	4	4	12	3
	18. Brooke, - -	78	489	24	121	15	4	11	6	1		—		110	9	3	4	12	0
	19. Thorpe, - -	57	272	13	137	7	6	5	5	10		—		129	7	1	9	19	0

* Though the money expended on the poor in Maidſtone, Tunſtall, and Mancheſter, exceeds the ſum raiſed by the rates, they are faithfully copied from the Overſeers returns.
† As the Boughton meant is not particulariſed, every one of that name is given.

TABLE, ſhowing the number of Houſes in ſeveral Pariſhes in different parts of the Kingdom, &c. continued.

COUNTIES.	PARISHES.	Number of houſes.	Number of inhabitants.	Number of paupers.	Amount of poor's rates.				County expence.			Expence of litigations.			Expended on the poor.				Expence per head.			
					L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths
Northamptonſhire,	20. Kiſſingbury, - -	107	473	23	139	1	1	0	2	17	6	10	8	8	125	15	0	0	5	9	4	2
Nottinghamſhire,	21. Nottingham, -	3267	17,417	860	2,159	8	0	0	2	10	0	22	8	0	2,129	4	3	0	2	9	6	2
Suffolk, -	22. Hawſtead, - - -	50	386	19	109	9	7	0	13	10	2	6	2	2	94	15	3	0	4	19	9	0
	23. Bradfield Combuſt, -	22	125	6	68	2	10	0	2	13	4		—		65	9	6	0	10	18	0	0
	24. Great Waldingfield, -	34	263	12	252	13	2	0	21	3	9	2	8	6	191	9	6	0	15	19	1	6
	25. Lowſtoff, - -	445	2,231	110	281	3	8	0	11	16	4		—		268	8	1	0	2	8	10	6
	26. Haverhill, - -	146	1,076	53	354	8	6	0	53	1	4	4	4	0	296	18	5	0	5	12	0	6
Suſſex, -	27. Catsfield, - -	50	290	14	209	14	1	0	7	1	10		—		155	0	4	0	11	1	5	5
	28. Hooe, - -	49	380	18	337	5	0	0	167	3	6	1	0	6	169	3	0	0	9	7	11	4
	29. Brightling, - -	80	448	22	373	0	0	0	27	4	11		—		334	15	11	0	15	4	4	3
	30. Penhurſt, - -	10	74	3	40	16	9	0	11	1	5		—		34	10	4	0	11	10	1	4
Warwickſhire,	31. Birmingham in 1770 ¶,	6025	30,804	1,521	6,548	5	2	0	653	8	5	155	0	0	5,739	16	9	0	3	15	5	0
	Ditto 1776 ♄, - -	—	40,000	1,976		—				—			—		5,739	16	9	0	2	18	1	1
	Ditto in 1784 ♄, (pub. at Birm.)	—	48,000	2,371	14,219	11	0	0	486	1	1	211	11	6	12,335	9	10	6	5	4	0	7
Eſſex, -	1. Stiſted, - -	30	590	29	163	10	0	0	20	17	8	4	2	3	124	4	0	0	4	5	7	10
	Ditto *, - - -	30	590	29	280	0	0	0	20	17	8	4	2	3	255	0	1	0	8	15	10	4
Suffolk, -	2. Hawſtead †, - -	52	415	20	150	0	0	0	13	10	2	6	2	2	130	7	8	0	6	10	4	7
	3. Fornham St Martin's ‡,	22	134	6	50	0	0	0	2	6	8	0	5	4	47	8	0	0	7	18	0	0
	Ditto §, - -	22	134	6	44	11	10	0	2	6	8	0	5	4	41	19	10	0	6	19	11	8
	Ditto ‖, - - -	22	134	6	59	0	0	0	2	6	8	0	5	4	56	8	0	0	9	8	0	0
	Troſton ↓, - -	—	204	10	44	0	0	0	2	6	6		—		41	13	6	0	4	3	4	2
	Ditto **, - -	—	204	10	38	10	8	0	2	6	6		—		36	4	2	0	3	12	5	0
	Ditto †††, - -	—	204	10	52	2	1	0	2	6	6		—		49	15	7	0	4	19	6	8
Northamptonſhire,	5. Wellingborough ++, -	—	2,857	141	1,181	8	6	0	61	18	1		—		1,104	4	3	0	7	16	7	6
	Ditto ∽, - - -	—	2,857	141	1,191	4	11	6	61	18	1		—		1,129	6	10	6	8	0	2	3
	Total,		319,961	15,764	51,555	7	2	6	1932	17	6	702	15	8	60,479	10	8	0	3	16	8	9

* Mr Only's account, at 4s. per pound. † Sir John Cullum's account. ‡ Mr Ord's account in 1776. ‖ Ditto from 1776 to 1783. ↓ Average account, according to Capel Lofft, Eſq.
††† Higheſt account, according to ditto.—All theſe are publiſhed in Mr Young's Annals of Agriculture. ¶ Numbers from Dr Price. ♄ Private accounts.—the town ſaid to increaſe 1000 people per annum. § Overſeers returns. ** Ditto. ++ The number from Mr Pew. ∽ The 2d number, his account of the rates,

TABLE, ſhowing the number of Houſes in ſeveral Pariſhes in different parts of the Kingdom and the number of Inhabitants, calculated from Mr Howlet's proportion of five two-fifths per Houſe; and likewiſe the Money collected by the Poor's rate within the year, ending at Eaſter 1776, with the money actually expended on the maintenance of the Poor, taken from the Overſeers returns to the Houſe of Commons. The number of Paupers in the ſeveral Pariſhes are taken in the proportion that the Poor of Briſtol bear to the Inhabitants, viz. 2470 Paupers to 50,000 Inhabitants.

COUNTIES.	PARISHES.	Number of houſes.	Number of inhabitants.	Number of paupers.	Amount of poors rates.			County expence.			Expence of litigations.			Expended on the poor.			Expence per head.			Number of houſes returned by the Surveyors of window lights.
					L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	12ths
Berkſhire,	1. Speen,	240	1,296	64																187
	2. Newbury,	792	4,276	211	1713	10	10	27	11	10	2	19	2	1682	12	10	7	19	5	10	739
	The two added together,	1032	5,572	275		—			—			—			—		6	2	4	5	—
Cambridgeſhire,	3. Little St Mary's,	90	486	24	393	12	5	31	6	0	0	8	0	328	17	7	13	14	0	9	77
Cheſhire,	4. Preſtbury,	2066	11,156	551	30	7	0		—		5	19	0	25	7	1		—			1366
Devonſhire,	5. Torrington,	304	1,641	81	439	16	7	24	8	3	13	7	7	402	0	8	4	19	3	2	204
	6. Holſworthy,	155	837	41	234	19	6	32	6	8	2	7	8	194	10	1	4	14	10	6	114
Dorſetſhire,	7. Derweſton,	65	351	17	46	2	2	6	3	3		—		38	14	0	2	5	6	4	18
	8. Shillingſton,	72	388	19	133	17	7	16	6	10		—		105	15	9	5	11	4	3	35
Derbyſhire,	9. Ettwall,	99	534	26	77	1	8		—		0	8	6	73	14	0	2	16	8	3	30
	10. Sutton on the Hill,	102	550	27	19	0	2	6	16	4		—		12	3	10	0	9	0	4	17
	11. Eggington,	54	291	14	59	8	10	7	8	7		—		52	0	0	3	14	3	5	28
	12. Mickleover,	76	410	20	45	11	1		—		0	8	4	45	2	9	2	5	1	7	42
	13. Littleover,	44	237	11	14	2	6		—			—		14	2	6	1	5	8	2	33
	14. Findern,	45	243	12	49	0	0	29	0	0		—		20	2	7	1	13	6	7	28
	15. Willington,	49	264	13	31	4	0		—		0	7	0	29	0	2	2	4	7	6	20
Eſſex,	16. Great Saling,	54	291	14	154	16	3	22	5	0		—		132	11	3	9	9	4	6	21
	17. Bradfield ditto,	43	232	11	124	18	2	21	9	6		—		103	8	8	9	8	0	5	22
	18. Stebbing,	201	1,085	53	733	16	3	41	19	6	5	16	2	641	5	3	12	1	11	9	72
	19. Witham,	400	2,160	106	751	1	1	122	18	2		—		628	2	10	5	18	6	2	244
	20. Redgwell,	85	459	22	136	11	0	14	11	4		—		121	19	8	5	10	10	8	25
	21. High Roding.	63	340	16	138	14	6	29	7	0		—		109	7	2	6	16	8	4	41

TABLE, ſhowing the number of Houſes in ſeveral Pariſhes in different parts of the Kingdom, &c. continued.

COUNTIES.	PARISHES.	Number of houſes.	Number of inhabitants.	Number of paupers.	Amount of poor's rates. L.	s.	d.	County expence. L.	d.	s.	Expence of litigations. L.	s.	d.	Expended on the poor. L.	s.	d.	Expence per head. L.	s.	d. 12lbs	Number of houſes returned by ſurveyors of window tax.
	22. High Ongar,	60	324	16	485	6	3	29	18	0		—		433	5	1	27	1	6	9	50
	23. Gosfield, - -	73	394	19	246	10	8	60	3	10		—		186	7	10	9	16	2	5	25
	24. Braintree, - -	445	2403	118	1071	4	4	202	11	6	19	1	7	929	1	0	7	17	6	2	95
Hampſhire,	25. Portſea, - -	1940	10,476	517	1466	13	3	139	4	8	92	10	8	1234	17	11	2	7	11	6	1540
Hertfordſhire,	26. Berkhamſtead, - -	242	1,306	64	458	0	0	42	0	0	2	5	0	408	15	0	6	7	8	9	166
	27. Tring, - -	157	847	41	898	19	6	150	9	8	22	18	5	630	10	2	15	7	6	9	107
	28. Biſhop Stortford, -	226	1,220	60	703	6	4	256	0	6		—		447	5	10	7	9	1	2	200
	29. Addington, -	29	156	7	70	17	8	6	0	11	7	19	0	52	4	11	7	9	3	3	5
Kent,	30. Crayford, - -	190	1,026	50	260	0	11	16	6	8	49	6	0	193	16	1	3	17	6	3	170
	31. Eaſt Malling, -	175	945	46	355	2	6	23	14	10	23	5	11	308	1	9	6	13	11	4	175
	32. Sutton near Dartford,	104	561	27	256	19	9	36	19	3	4	7	4	205	12	9	7	12	3	10	103
	33. Tudely, - - -	83	448	22	138	19	4	54	11	2		—		93	15	2	4	5	2	9	56
	34. Burham, - -	24	129	6	93	7	6	11	0	6	0	5	0	74	12	6	12	8	9	0	15
	35. Wouldham, - -	38	205	10	95	2	3	8	12	8	0	2	0	68	14	4	6	17	5	2	9
	36. Lenham, - -	194	1,047	51	957	17	9	53	7	0		—		943	1	0	18	9	9	10	153
Leiceſterſhire,	37. Scraptoft, -	28	151	7	50	6	1	7	13	11	0	10	10	42	1	4	6	0	2	3	14
Middleſex,	38. Fulham, - -	537	2,899	143	1109	10	2	15	4	2	13	12	0	1072	17	3	7	10	0	7	355
	39. Hammerſmith, -	567	3,061	151	697	3	4	149	19	0	4	2	0	527	12	0	3	9	10	6	384
Norfolk,	40. Drayton, - -	54	291	14	88	10	10	14	5	7		—		74	5	3	5	6	1	1	19
	41. Catton, - -	123	661	32	180	1	8		—			—		180	1	8	5	12	6	7	46
	42. Trower Newton, -	84	453	22	142	16	8	10	2	7		—		130	5	5	5	18	5	1	19
	43. Kerby Bedon, -	30	162	8	67	15	1	5	0	9		—		57	11	11	7	3	11	10	20

TABLE, ſhowing the number of Houſes in ſeveral Pariſhes in different parts of the Kingdom, &c. continued.

COUNTIES.	PARIHES.	Number of houſes.	Number of inhabitants.	Number of paupers.	Amount of poor's rate.			County expence.			Expence of litigations.			Expended on the poor.			Expence per head.			Number of houſes returned by ſurveyors of window tax.
					L.	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.* 12ths	
	44. Sweinthorpe, -	20	108	5	49	3	5	2	8	6	—			46	14	11	9	6	11	9	11
	45. Hedenham, - -	63	340	16	72	17	2	15	4	10	—			57	12	4	3	12	0	3	23
	46. Thwaite, - -	12	64	3	70	19	11	5	12	2	3	11	6	61	16	2	20	12	0	8	8
	Ditto, - -	12	64	3	18	17	11	2	3	9	—			16	14	2	5	11	4	8	—
	47. Ditchingham, - -	44	237	11	159	17	3	7	16	9	—			154	8	1	14	0	8	9	29
	48. Loddon, - -	139	750	37	146	17	8	7	10	3	—			139	7	6	3	15	4	0	69
	49. Brome, - -	31	167	8	58	14	2	4	5	0	—			54	9	2	6	16	1	9	19
	50. Rednall with Harlſton,	157	847	41	476	2	6	8	17	7	9	4	10	444	16	5	10	16	11	9	89
Northamptonſhire,	51. Northampton, -	1086	5864	289	1246	4	11	67	16	4	2	6	0	1204	19	8	4	3	4	8	768
	52. Ecton, - -	95	513	25	124	12	10	8	14	5	—			115	18	5	4	12	8	11	20
	53. Kingſthorpe, -	151	785	38	124	16	11	14	0	0	—			110	16	11	2	18	4	0	63
	54. Finedon, - -	177	955	47	264	13	0	11	9	6	8	12	6	244	11	0	5	4	0	9	85
Stafordſhire,	55. Abbot's Broomely, -	246	1328	65	126	18	9	14	19	4	10	10	0	123	16	10	1	18	1	3	161
Suffolk,	56. Bungay, - -	338	1825	90	309	8	10	1	12	1	—			301	7	2	3	6	3	7	260
	57. Weſton, - -	23	124	6	70	7	9	10	0	0	—			60	7	9	10	1	3	6	12
	58. Beccles, - -	465	2511	124	402	3	2	15	18	3	—			386	4	11	3	2	3	7	169
	59. Bardwell, - -	49	263	11	145	8	3	8	1	0	0	5	0	137	2	3	12	9	3	6	37
	60. Ixworth, - -	90	486	24	187	12	7	5	5	0	1	17	7	174	19	10	7	5	9	11	86
	61. Ship-Meadow, -	13	70	3	51	3	2	14	8	6	—			36	14	9	12	4	11	0	7
	62. Mettingham, -	22	119	6	95	10	3	4	8	1	24	10	6	66	11	8	11	1	11	4	21
	63. St Andrew Ilkſhall, -	56	302	14	74	13	11	1	9	8	—			73	4	3	5	4	7	0	45
	64. Homersfield, -	34	182	9	59	6	3	4	14	3	—			54	12	0	6	1	4	0	21

TABLE, ſhowing the number of Houſes in ſeveral Pariſhes in different parts of the Kingdom, &c. continued.

COUNTIES.	PARISHES.	Number of houſes.	Number of inhabitants.	Number of paupers.	Amount of poors rates.			County expence.			Expence of litigations.			Expended on the poor.			Expence per head.				Number of houſes returned by the Surveyors of window lights.
					L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	parts	
	65. St Peter's, - -	14	75	3	26	13	9	3	16	10		—		19	15	8	6	11	10	6	12
Surrey -	66. Albury, - - -	75	405	20	225	11	8	46	7	10	13	14	1	167	9	11	8	7	5	11	48
	67. Epſom. - -	345	1863	92	537	0	0	105	8	8	8	0	0	432	0	0	4	13	10	11	215
Suſſex,	68. Hertſmonceaux, -	91	491	24	392	14	4	41	8	6	16	16	4	354	9	5	4	15	4	8	54
Worceſterſhire,	69. Old Swinford, -	1579	8526	421	689	18	1	8	10	10	2	1	4	657	10	5	1	11	2	10	414
Yorkſhire,	70. Thorparch, -	58	313	15	17	18	8	2	14	0		—		17	18	8	1	3	10	11	41
	71. Middleton Tyas, -	155	837	41	85	10	0		—			—		85	10	0	2	1	8	5	71
Berkſhire,	1. Farmborough, -	34	184	9	45	7	9	2	16	3		—		42	11	6	4	14	7	4	5
	2. Bright Walton, -	72	389	19	135	1	11	2	2	9		—		132	19	2	6	19	0	5	21
	3. Welford, - -	162	875	43	465	13	8	54	4	2	3	18	10	117	10	8	2	14	8	0	62
	4. Chaddleworth, -	62	335	17	188	6	5	5	0	0	12	4	11	164	18	6	9	14	0	4	20
	5. Little Shefford, -	12	65	3	61	6	0	1	14	10		—		59	11	1	19	17	0	4	3
	6. Great Shefford, -	90	486	24	218	7	6	37	10	6	7	9	9	169	17	2	7	1	6	6	17
	7. Fawley, - -	47	254	13	46	17	5	1	11	7	2	18	3	42	7	7	3	5	2	4	7
	8. Eaſt Garſton, - -	99	535	26	273	12	5	2	11	9	1	4	6	307	12	9	11	16	7	8	41
	Total,	16720	90,229	4429	22,968	13	7	2279	19	2	401	13	1	19,895	3	6	4	9	10	1	9123

The actual number of the laſt eight places, and the numbers returned by the Surveyors, are taken from the Reverend Mr Richard Forſter's account, publiſhed in the Philoſophical Tranſactions, Vol. L.

It is greatly to be regretted, that, through the remiſſneſs of ſome pariſhes, the report of the Overſeers of the Poor made to the Houſe of Commons in 1776 are not complete; yet they are uſeful, and afford much matter for obſervation: therefore an Abſtract of them, with ſome additional columns, are now offered to the Public.

Briſtol is the only place where the number of Out-poor is mentioned.

ABSTRACT of an Average of the three Years (viz. 1772, 73, and 74,) Returns from the Governors, Directors, and other Officers of the HOUSES of INDUSTRY, &c. made to the Houſe of Commons.

HUNDREDS.	Number of pariſhes.	N° of POOR. Able.	Infirm.	Infants.	Total.	Total, reckoning 2 children equal to 1 perſon.	Amount of food. L.	s.	d.	lbs	Expence per head, reckoning every ſoul. L.	s.	d.	lbs	Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one perſon. L.	s.	d.	lbs	Amount of cloathing. L.	s.	d.	lbs	Expence per head. L.	s.	d.	lbs
1. Blything,	46	—	—	—	345	—	1191	1	4	11	3	9	0	10		—			172	0	0	0	0	9	11	8
2. Boſmere and Claydon,	35	131	57	58	246	217	1346	15	2	4	5	9	5	10	6	4	1	5	184	10	11	0	0	15	0	6
3. Colneis and Carlford,	28	—	—	—	166	—	944	17	9	4	5	13	10	1		—			223	4	5	0	1	6	10	8
4. Loddon and Clavering,	41	—	—	—	262	—	930	16	11	0	3	11	0	8		—			172	1	5	0	0	13	1	7
5. Loes and Wilford,	33	142	35	23	200	188	900	0	0	0	4	10	0	0	4	15	8	11	250	0	0	0	1	5	0	0
6. Mutford and Lothingland,	24	66	61	23	150	138	711	13	4	8	4	14	10	8	5	3	1	8	164	12	10	8	1	1	11	5
7. Samford, - -	28	116	56	55	227	199	1147	8	8	0	5	1	1	1	5	15	3	10	306	19	3	8	1	7	0	6
8. Wangford, -	27	—	—	—	254	—	845	5	11	0	3	6	6	8		—			207	14	4	0	0	16	4	3

ABSTRACT of an Average of the three Years (viz. 1772, 73, and 74,) Returns, &c. continued.

HUNDREDS.	Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person.				Amount of fuel.				Expence per head.				Amount of food, cloathing, and fuel.				Expence per head.				Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person.				Interest of houses & incidentals.				Expence per head, reckoning every soul.			
	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	d.	s.	12ths	L.	d.	s.	12ths	L.	d.	s.	12ths
1. Blything, -		—			111	5	11	8	0	6	5	5	1474	7	4	0	4	5	5	11		—			400	0	0	0	1	3	2	3
2. Bosmere and Claydon,	0	17	0	0	130	10	11	0	0	10	7	4	1661	17	0	4	6	15	1	3	7	13	1	11	693	15	5	8	2	16	4	10
3. Colneis and Carlford,		—			96	12	11	0	0	11	8	1	1264	15	1	4	7	12	4	6		—			98	10	7	0	0	12	2	9
4. Loddon and Clavering,		—			114	18	2	8	0	8	9	3	1217	16	6	8	4	12	11	6		—			411	0	6	8	1	11	4	6
5. Loes and Wilford, -	1	6	7	1	100	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	1250	0	0	0	6	5	0	0	6	12	11	8	400	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
6. Mutford and Lothingland,	1	3	10	4	73	18	3	4	0	9	10	3	950	4	6	8	6	6	8	4	6	17	8	6	410	6	8	0	2	14	8	6
7. Samford, - -	1	10	10	2	123	3	5	11	0	10	10	2	1577	11	5	0	6	18	11	11	7	18	6	7	510	6	8	0	2	4	11	6
8. Wangford, -		—			90	15	5	0	0	7	1	9	1143	15	8	0	4	10	0	8		—			501	19	7	8	1	19	6	3

HUNDREDS.	Amount of food, cloathing, fuel, & houses.				Expence per head, reckoning every soul.				Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person.				Expence of management.				Expence per head.				Amount of the expence of workhouse.				Expence per head.			
	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths
1. Blyhing, -	1874	7	4	0	5	8	7	10		—			396	11	4	0	1	2	11	10	2270	18	8	0	6	11	7	9
2. Bosmere and Claydon,	2355	12	6	0	9	11	6	2	10	17	1	3	245	18	0	0	0	19	11	10	2601	10	6	0	10	11	6	0
3. Colneis and Carlford,	1363	5	8	4	8	4	3	0		—			192	1	4	0	1	3	1	8	1555	7	0	4	9	7	4	8
4. Loddon and Clavering,	1628	17	1	4	6	4	1	2		—			193	8	1	4	0	14	9	1	1822	5	2	8	6	19	1	2
5. Loes and Wilford,	1650	0	0	0	8	5	0	0	8	15	6	4	220	0	0	3	1	2	0	0	1870	0	0	0	9	7	0	0
6. Mutford and Lothingland,	1360	10	9	4	9	1	4	10	9	16	5	5	128	16	4	0	0	17	2	1	1489	7	1	4	9	18	6	11
7. Samford, - -	2087	18	1	0	9	3	11	5	10	9	10	0	238	17	0	0	1	1	0	6	2326	15	1	0	10	5	0	0
8. Wangford,	1645	15	3	8	6	9	7	0		—			142	2	0	0	0	11	2	3	1787	17	3	8	7	0	9	3

ABSTRACT of an Average of the three Years (viz. 1772, 73, and 74,) Returns, &c. continued.

HUNDREDS.	Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person.			12ths	Net money earned by labour.			12ths	Expence per head.			12ths	Expence per head, reckoning only the able.			12ths	Allowance to out-poor.			12ths	Total expence of poor.			12ths	Money raised by the poor's rates.			
	L.	s.	d.		L.	s.	d.		L.	s.	d.		L.	s.	d.		L.	s.	d.		L.	s.	d.		L.	s.	d.	
1. Blything, - -		—			504	2	6	4	1	9	2	7		—			186	15	11	4	2457	14	7	4	3084	12	11	
2. Bosmere and Claydon,	11	19	9	3	275	19	9	8	1	2	0	4	2	2	5	6	268	0	3	4	2869	10	9	4	2561	4	10	
3. Colneis and Carlford,		—			260	11	6	4	1	11	4	9		—			230	17	4	4	1786	4	4	8	1487	13	5	
4. Loddon and Clavering,		—			140	18	0	4	0	10	9	1		—			88	16	7	0	1911	1	9	8	2132	6	5	
5. Loes and Wilford,	9	18	11	2	253	5	10	8	1	5	3	11	1	15	8	1	160	0	0	0	2030	0	0	0	2069	9	9	
6. Mutford and Lothingland,	10	15	1	2	168	6	6	8	1	2	6	1	2	11	0	0	56	14	4	0	1546	1	5	0	1188	12	9	
7. Samford, - -	11	13	1	0	349	16	11	4	1	10	9	10	3	0	3	10	287	8	7	0	2614	3	8	0	2262	18	6	
8. Wangford, - -		—			168	15	3	4	0	13	3	5		—			38	4	7	8	1826	1	11	4	1787	11	8	

HUNDREDS.	Average amount of the rates when the house was built.			Discharged of debts within the three years.			Remains of debt.			NUMBER of POOR who DIED.				Total expence.			
										Able.	Infirm.	Infants.	Total.				12ths
	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.					L.	s.	d.	
1. Blything, -		—		2700	0	0	9300	0	0	—	—	—	68	2801	14	7	4
2. Bosmere and Claydon,	2561	4	10	2596	0	0	7404	0	0	15	15	14	44	2869	10	9	4
3. Colneis and Carlford,	1487	13	5	1600	0	0	4100	0	0	7	12	10	29	1786	4	4	8
4. Loddon and Clavering,	2132	6	5	2300	0	0	4700	0	0	12	28	14	54	1911	1	10	4
5. Loes and Wilford,	2169	9	9	1400	0	0	7800	0	0	—	—	—	37	2030	0	0	0
6. Mutford and Lothingland,		—			—		6125	0	0	7	15	9	31	1546	1	5	4
7. Samford, - -	2262	18	6	1850	0	0	7100	0	0	7	13	10	30	2614	0	4	0
8. Wangford, -	1787	11	8	1300	0	0	7150	0	0	15	18	12	45	1802	0	2	8

OBSER-

OBSERVATIONS
BY THE
COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE of COMMONS.

WHERE the blanks are not filled up, the returns are defective in thoſe reſpects. When any of the accounts returned varied from the forms required by the Houſe of Commons, they have been collected and reduced in the Abſtract, ſo as to correſpond with thoſe forms as nearly as may be; and the moſt material things, which could not be expreſſed in their proper places, are noticed in the Obſervations.

HUNDREDS of BLYTHING in SUFFOLK.

About one-third of the deaths happened between one and ten: On that head it is obſerved, that the family was fluctuating, there being about 280 freſh paupers brought annually, conſiſting of the old, very young, and infirm, and almoſt all the ſmall-pox paupers of the hundred. The intereſt does not appear to be included in the contingent expences.

HUNDREDS of COLNEIS and CARLFORD in SUFFOLK.

A ſhoemaker at 1s. 6d. per day, a taylor at 1s. and a mantuamaker at 8d. occaſionally, beſides their board; all theſe, with ſome expences of bedding, are included in the article of cloathing. L. 14 or L. 15 per annum given as rewards to the moſt induſtrious. The intereſt of the money borrowed is about L. 130 per annum, and is not charged in the incidents.

Received for illegitimate children in 1772,	L. 84	0	0
1773,	72	10	6
1774,	25	0	0
Total,	L. 181	10	6

The prices of proviſions are returned; and it is obſerved, that when they are moderate, the collections from the pariſhes, with the earnings, will maintain the poor, pay the intereſt, and part of the principal; when high, there will be a deficiency. It is obſerved, that the proportions of contributions from the incorporated pariſhes are not half ſo much as is raiſed by other pariſhes in the neighbourhood for the relief of the poor.

Hundreds of Loddon and Clavering in Norfolk.

In the year 1773 and 1774, a putrid fever raged in the houſe and neighbourhood, which accounts for the number of paupers who died in thoſe years. A ſixth part of the money earned is diſtributed half-yearly to the induſtrious poor, in proportion to their merit, for their private uſe.

Hundreds of Loes and Wilford in Suffolk.

No particular accounts kept for the number of each claſs of poor, but computed on an average as they are entered. The like of the annual expences of food, cloathing, and fuel.

Hundreds of Mutford and Lothingland in Suffolk.

Received for illegitimate children in 1772, -	L. 124	8	5
1773, - -	99	14	4
1774, -	88	8	2
Total,	L. 302	10	11

Hundreds of Samford in Suffolk.

A Shoemaker at 8s. per week, conſtantly employed, a tailor at 6s. and a mantuamaker at 4s. occaſionally, with their board: theſe wages are included in the article of cloathing. A gratuity of two guineas a-year to one of the poor women who does the office of nurſe, and the like to one of the men who ſhaves the poor. L. 84 per annum is accounted for as received from the produce of the farm, and on account of baſtards. The diet is fixed for every day.

Hundreds of Wangford in Suffolk.

A farm of 40 acres purchaſed; a barn, cow-houſe, ſtable, &c. built on it. Under the title *Able* are included all from 8 to 50. Few able men admitted, except in caſes of ſickneſs or accidents; but ſome of their children are taken into the houſe, when the burden is too heavy for them, till they can be placed out to trades and ſervices. There was a great number of deaths in 1774, occaſioned by the ſmall-pox.

Note by the Editor.

The laſt column of Total Expences is taken from the Returns. As there appeared to be ſome miſtakes, the firſt column of Expences inſerted in theſe Averages is made up of the Total Expence of the Workhouſes and of the Allowance to the Out-poor; therefore ſometimes the two different columns of Total Expences diſagree.

ABSTRACT of the Average of three Years (viz. 1772, 73, and 74,) Returns from the Governors, Directors, &c. of the Workhouſes, &c. &c.

CITIES.	Number of parishes.	NUMBER of POOR. Able.	Infirm.	Infants.	Total.	Total, reckoning 2 children equal to one person.	Amount of food. L.	s.	d.	lbs	Expence per head, reckoning every soul. L.	s.	d.	lbs	Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person. L.	s.	d.	lbs	Amount of cloathing. L.	s.	d.	lbs	Expence per head. L.	s.	d.	lbs	Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person. L.	s.	d.	lbs
1. Briſtol,	17	142	121	143	406	334	2667	6	9	8	6	11	4	9	7	19	8	7	383	3	0	4	0	18	10	5	1	2	11	0
2. Canterbury,	14	151	48	39	238	218	1203	11	9	0	5	1	1	8	5	10	5	0	380	6	10	0	1	11	11	6	1	14	10	8
3. Cheſter,	9	86	27	40	153	133			—				—				—				—				—				—	
4. Chicheſter,	9	—	—	—	94	—			—				—				—				—				—				—	
5. Exeter,	19	71	243	74	388	351			—				—				—				—				—				—	
6. Glouceſter,	10	74	20	21	115	104	719	9	2	4	6	5	1	5	6	18	4	3	141	18	4	0	1	4	8	2	1	7	3	10
7. Norwich,	42	648	395	252	1295	1169	6180	0	11	8	4	15	5	4	5	5	8	9	1132	6	4	0	0	17	5	10	0	19	4	5

CITIES.	Amount of fuel. L.	s.	d.	lbs	Expence per head. L.	s.	d.	lbs	Amount of food, cloathing, and fuel. L.	s.	d.	lbs	Expence per head. L.	s.	d.	lbs	Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person. L.	s.	d.	lbs	Interest of houſes and incidentals. L.	s.	d.	lbs	Expence per head, reckoning every ſoul. L.	s.	d.	lbs	Amount of food, cloathing, fuel, and houſes. L.	s.	d.	lbs
1. Briſtol.	171	15	10	4	0	8	5	6	3222	5	8	4	7	18	8	9	9	12	11	4	317	7	7	0	0	15	7	6	3539	13	3	4
2. Canterbury,	103	6	6	0	0	8	8	2	1687	5	1	0	7	1	9	10	7	14	9	9	1127	1	9	8		—			2814	6	10	8
3. Cheſter,		—				—				—				—				—				—				—				—		
4. Chicheſter,		—				—			632	0	10	4	6	14	7	0		—			212	13	10	0	2	5	3	0	844	14	8	4
5. Exeter,		—				—			2144	1	6	8	5	10	6	2	6	2	2	0		—				—			2144	1	6	8
6. Glouceſter,	62	6	2	0	0	10	10	0	923	15	8	11	8	0	7	10	8	17	7	9	83	18	3	8	0	14	7	1	1007	14	0	0
7. Norwich,	364	1	9	8	0	5	7	5	7676	9	1	4	5	18	6	7	6	11	6	6	983	18	7	0	0	15	2	4	3660	7	8	4

ABSTRACT of an Average of the three Years (viz. 1772, 73, and 74,) Returns, &c. continued.

CITIES.	Expence per head.				Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person.				Expence of management.				Expence per head, reckoning every soul.				Amount of the expence of workhouses.				Expence per head.				Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person.				Net money earned by labour.			
	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths
1. Briſtol, -	8	14	4	3	10	11	11	5	317	3	0	0	0	15	7	5	3856	16	3	4	9	9	11	7	11	10	11	4	112	16	0	0
2. Canterbury,	See the Obſervations.								122	10	0	0	0	10	3	6	2936	16	10	8	See the Obſervations.								384	18	2	8
3. Cheſter, -	—				—				163	6	0	0	1	1	4	1	1250	11	7	4	8	3	5	8	9	8	0	8	224	16	2	0
4. Chicheſter, -	8	19	10	0	—				81	0	0	0	0	17	2	9	925	14	8	4	9	17	0	9	—				—			
5. Exeter, -	5	10	6	2	6	2	2	0	194	18	8	0	0	10	0	7	2339	0	2	8	6	0	6	9	6	13	3	3	235	9	1	8
6. Glouceſter, -	8	15	2	11	9	13	9	5	66	13	10	0	0	11	7	1	1074	7	10	0	9	6	10	0	10	6	7	4	176	3	10	8
7. Norwich, -	6	13	8	11	7	8	2	0	410	0	0	0	0	7	1	3	9070	7	8	4	7	0	10	2	7	15	2	1	1422	11	3	0

CITIES.	Earnings per head, reckoning able & infirm.				Earnings per head, reckoning able only.				Number of out-poor.	Allowance to out-poor for occaſional relief.				Expence per head.				Total number of poor.	Total expence of poor.				Expence of poor per head.			
	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths		L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths		L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths
1. Briſtol, -	0	8	6	11	0	15	10	7	2063	6739	16	7	4	3	5	4	0	2470	10,596	12	10	8	4	5	9	7
2. Canterbury,	1	18	8	2	2	10	11	9	—	282	0	0	0					—	3,218	16	10	8				
3. Cheſter, -	1	19	8	4	1	12	3	4	—	167	9	8	0					—	1,418	1	3	4				
4. Chicheſter, -		—				—			—		—							—	925	14	8	4				
5. Exeter, -	0	15	0	0	3	6	3	10	—	1321	13	0	4					—	3,660	3	3	0				
6. Glouceſter, -	1	17	5	10	2	7	7	5	—	152	0	9	8					—	1,226	8	7	8				
7. Norwich, -	1	7	3	4	2	3	10	0	—	1432	7	6	8					—	10,502	15	3	0				

AB-

ABSTRACT of an Average of the three Years (viz. 1772, 73, and 74,) Returns, &c. continued.

CITIES.	Money raised by the poor's rate.				Average amount of poor's rate before the house was built.				Discharged of debt within the three years.				Remains of debt.				NUMBER of POOR who DIED.				Total expence, as mentioned in the Returns.			
																	Able.	Infirm.	Infants.	Total.				
	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths					L.	s.	d.	12ths
1. Briſtol,	11,000	0	0	0	2308	16	0	0		—			3000	0	0	0	87	66	22	175	10,629	19	6	8
2. Canterbury,	2,398	4	0	4		—			100	0	0	0	300	0	0	0	5	23	9	37	3,218	16	10	8
3. Cheſter,	1,193	5	1	4	1700	0	0	0		—				—			2	7	8	17	1,418	1	3	4
4. Chicheſter,	1,135	4	9	0		—				—			330	0	0	0	0	10	1	11	925	14	8	4
5. Exeter,	2,900	0	0	0	2908	2	0	0		—				—			3	26	16	45	3,660	19	11	0
6. Glouceſter,	949	13	4	0	1074	13	4	0		—				—			5	12	3	20	1,259	14	3	8
7. Norwich,	10,555	11	10	8		—			4800	0	0	0	900	0	0	0	8	36	15	19	10,502	8	7	0

OBSERVATIONS

BY THE

COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE of COMMONS.

Briſtol. L. 4610 : 10s. has been given to this houſe at different times; and L. 1626 : 13s. part thereof applied in purchaſing a freehold eſtate in the neighbourhood: the rent, being L. 110 per annum, is applied with the money aſſeſſed.

Canterbury. The ſum charged for incidental expences includes ſtores for trade. The annual income from the corporation, eſtates, and other articles, beſides the poor's rates, amount to upwards of L. 500 on an average of the three years. The ſtores in hand were valued at L. 851 : 8 : 9 at the end of the three years; of courſe this falls to be deducted from the incidentals, and from the total expence of the workhouſe; ſo that the account will ſtand thus:

Intereſt of houſes and incidentals.			Expence per head, reckoning every ſoul.			Amount of food, fuel, houſe, and cloathing.			Expence per head.			Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one perſon.		
L.	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*
275	13	$0\frac{8}{112}$	1	3	$1\frac{11}{112}$	1962	18	$1\frac{8}{112}$	8	4	$11\frac{4}{112}$	9	0	1

Amount of the expence of the workhouſe.			Expence per head.			Expence, 2 children equal, &c.		
L.	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*
2085	8	$1\frac{8}{112}$	8	15	$2\frac{11}{112}$	9	11	$4\frac{4}{112}$

Cheſter. No ſeparate account of expences for food, cloathing, and fuel, or incidents; but the whole expences in theſe articles, and alſo the poor kept out of the houſe, after earnings deducted, are included in the ſums raiſed by the poor's rate.

Chicheſter. The inhabitants rated to the poor for the laſt ten years at about 2s. in the pound upon an average on the rack-rents.

Exeter. Beſides the 19 pariſhes there were extra-parochial places. The corporation was limited at firſt to L. 3000 for buildings, &c. which ſum they exceeded, and the ſubſequent acts enabled them to raiſe money to pay their debts. The weight of bread, cheeſe, &c. is aſcertained for every perſon.

There appears to have been received for illegitimate children in

1772,	-	-	L. 107 3 0
1773,	-	-	54 13 0
1774,	-	-	62 0 0
		Total,	L. 223 16 0

Be-

Beſides the workhouſe, the corporation have eſtates of near L. 130 per annum, and L. 800 3 per cents; the rents and intereſt whereof are applied towards the maintenance of the poor; the rates, monies received for baſtards and other paupers, and rents and intereſt, amounting to L. 1270 per annum, or thereabouts. Before the workhouſe was provided, the poor of the pariſhes coſt L. 1074 : 13 : 4 per annum on an average. In the Incidental Expences are included, births, burials, marriages, apprenticeſhips, removals, &c. Glouceſter.

Beſides the money charged, as before mentioned, there is paid out of the poors' money, viz. chief-conſtable, purſuant to act of Parliament, carriage of ſoldiers' baggage, conveyance of convicts for tranſportation, building and repairing watch-houſes, coroners, vagrants, &c. which amounted to, viz. in 1772, - - L. 160 6 0
1773, - - - 210 6 0
1774, - - 160 6 0

Total, L. 530 18 0 Norwich.

ABSTRACT of an Average of three Years (viz. 1772, 73, and 74,) Returns from the Governors, Directors, &c. of the Workhouses, &c. &c.

TOWNS.	Number of parishes.	N° of POOR. Able.	Infirm.	Infants.	Total.	Total, reckoning 2 children equal to one person.	Amount of food. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head, reckoning every soul. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Amount of cloathing. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head. L.	s.	d.	12ths
1. Beverly,	8	—	24	16	40	32	108	5	4	0	2	14	1	4	3	7	8	0	36	18	4	4	0	18	5	6
2. St Edmund's Bury,	2	113	79	47	239	215	1083	4	8	8	4	10	7	9	5	0	9	2	248	19	1	8	1	0	10	0
3. Crediton,	1	10	42	23	75	63	316	0	9	4	4	4	3	0	5	0	3	11	60	15	10	8	0	16	2	6
3. Kingston upon Hull,	2	58	47	41	146	125	716	5	2	0	4	18	1	4	5	15	0	0	131	13	0	8	0	18	0	4
5. Liverpool,	1	—	268	201	469	368	1353	8	2	4	2	17	8	6	3	13	6	7	340	18	3	4	0	14	6	5
6. King's Lynn,	1	10	90	19	119	109	681	10	4	8	5	14	6	5	6	5	0	1	233	11	2	0	1	19	3	1
7. Plymouth,	2	54	58	31	143	127	608	19	8	0	4	5	2	0	4	15	9	11	79	16	8	0	0	11	1	11
8. Sudbury,	3	—	—	—	523	—	—				—				—				—				—			

TOWNS.	Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Amount of fuel. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Amount of food, cloathing, and fuel. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Interest of houses & incidentals. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head. L.	s.	d.	12ths
1. Beverly,	1	3	0	10	4	16	0	0	0	2	4	9	149	19	8	0	3	14	11	2	4	13	8	10	37	16	9	4	0	18	11	0
2. St Edmund's Bury,	1	3	1	10	97	17	2	0	0	8	2	3	1430	1	0	11	5	19	8	0	6	13	0	4	266	5	3	8	1	2	3	4
3. Crediton,	0	19	3	7	29	18	11	0	0	7	11	9	406	15	7	0	5	8	5	3	6	9	1	7	29	18	9	0	0	7	11	9
4. Kingston upon Hull,	1	1	0	9	55	5	7	0	0	7	0	8	903	3	9	8	6	3	2	4	7	4	6	1	119	1	10	11	0	16	3	3
5. Liverpool,	0	18	6	4	104	8	2	8	0	4	5	5	1798	14	8	11	3	16	8	4	4	17	8	5	529	14	0	8	1	2	7	0
6. King's Lynn,	2	2	10	3	48	8	10	0	0	8	1	8	963	10	4	8	8	1	11	0	8	16	9	6	216	6	2	4	1	16	5	3
7. Plymouth,	0	12	6	10	32	9	8	0	0	4	6	6	721	6	0	0	5	0	10	5	5	13	7	10	235	12	8	0	1	12	11	5
8. Sudbury *,	—				—				—				188	13	6	0	0	7	2	4	—				215	19	2	4	0	8	3	1

* Sudbury. The poor of the house was let out by contract at the sum here stated; the contractor had the benefit of their labour. *There is probably some mistake, as the sum is very little.*

ABSTRACT of an Average of the three Years (viz. 1772, 73, and 74,) Returns, &c. continued.

TOWNS.	Amount of food, cloathing, fuel, & houses.				Expence per head.				Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person.				Expence of management.				Expence per head.				Amount of the expence of the workhouse.				Expence per head.			
	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths
1. Beverly,	187	16	5	4	4	13	10	11	5	17	4	8	32	2	0	0	0	16	0	7	219	18	5	4	5	9	11	6
2. St Edmund's Bury,	1696	6	4	0	7	1	11	4	7	17	9	6	67	19	6	8	0	5	8	3	1764	5	10	8	7	7	7	7
3. Crediton,	436	14	4	0	5	16	5	0	6	18	7	8	20	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	456	14	4	0	6	1	9	0
4. Kingston upon Hull,	1022	5	8	0	7	0	0	6	8	3	6	9	72	12	8	0	0	9	11	4	1094	18	4	0	7	9	11	10
5. Liverpool,	2328	8	9	0	4	19	3	4	6	6	6	6	333	9	6	0	0	14	2	7	2661	18	3	0	5	13	5	11
6. King's Lynn,	1179	16	7	0	9	18	4	4	10	16	5	9	107	10	0	0	0	18	0	9	1287	6	7	0	10	16	5	1
7. Plymouth,	956	18	8	0	6	13	9	10	7	10	8	4	79	0	0	0	0	11	0	7	1035	18	8	0	7	4	10	5
8. Sudbury,	404	12	8	4	0	15	5	5	—				20	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	424	12	8	4	0	16	2	10

TOWNS.	Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person.				Net money earned by labour.				Earnings per head.				Earnings, reckoning only the able.				Allowance to out-poor.				Total expence of poor.				Money raised by the poor's rates.			
	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths
1. Beverly,	6	17	5	5	4	15	10	0	0	4	0	0	—				48	7	8	0	268	6	1	4	229	14	0	0
2. St Edmund's Bury,	8	4	1	2	315	5	1	11	1	12	10	0	2	15	9	6	456	4	10	4	2220	10	9	0	1817	16	3	0
3. Crediton,	7	5	0	0	116	9	7	4	2	4	9	7	11	12	11	6	1313	19	7	8	1770	10	11	8	1654	4	5	0
4. Kingston upon Hull,	8	15	2	2	75	11	11	0	0	14	4	9	1	6	0	9	150	8	3	4	1245	6	7	4	988	0	0	0
5. Liverpool,	7	4	8	0	189	15	4	4	0	14	1	11	—				513	10	11	0	3175	9	2	0	3285	13	9	8
6. King's Lynn,	11	16	2	0	95	1	0	11	0	19	0	0	9	10	2	3	1068	5	5	0	2355	12	0	0	2283	13	8	4
7. Plymouth,	8	3	1	8	38	9	4	0	0	6	10	5	0	14	2	11	298	5	0	0	1334	3	8	0	848	1	4	0
8. Sudbury,	—				—				—				—				786	17	1	0	1211	9	9	4	1176	1	2	4

ABSTRACT of an Average of the three Years (viz. 1772, 73, and 74,) Returns, &c. continued.

TOWNS.	Average amount of the rates when the house was first built.				Discharged of debts within the three years.				Remains of debt.				Total expence.				NUMBER of POOR who DIED.			
																	Able.	Infirm.	Infants.	Total.
	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths				
1. Beverly,	185	0	0	0		—			50	0	0	0	261	12	9	4	—	6	4	10
2. St Edmund's Bury,	332	15	0	0		—			12	11	6	0	2225	5	9	4	13	17	12	42
3. Crediton,		—		0		—				—			1770	13	11	8	—	9	1	10
4. Kingston upon Hull,	300	0	0	0	20	9	4	0	134	7	0	0	1244	17	5	4	3	16	4	23
5. Liverpool,		—		0	800	0	0	0	4000	0	0	0	3208	15	10	0	—	41	28	69
6. King's Lynn,		—		0		—				—			2355	14	4	4	2	14	6	22
7. Plymouth,	672	17	5	0		—			1160	0	0	0	1334	3	8	0	3	16	5	24
8. Sudbury,	900	0	0	0		—				—			1211	9	9	4	—	—	—	—

OBSERVATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

King's Lynn. IN the money ſaid to be raiſed by rates, is included 4d. per chaldron on coals imported in ſhips not belonging to the borough; which in 1772 was - - L. 567 7 10
1773, - - 573 9 8
1774, - - 476 6 6
Total, L. 1617 4 0

Plymouth. WHEN the ſecond act was obtained, there was raiſed annually L.672:15:3; but by that act the guardians had power to raiſe L. 2000 to pay off debts, and L. 1000 per annum for the future. Beſides the poors' rates, there were many other endowments, which fluctuate, but amounted in 1772 to - - L. 452 16 8
1773, - - 102 6 10
1774, - 219 12 5
Total, L. 774 15 11

Sudbury. THE governor has no account of the average ſum raiſed when the houſe was firſt eſtabliſhed, but eſtimates it, from the beſt information he could get, at L. 900 per annum. The number of the poor are calculated as near as may be, no particular account being kept of them, as many are paid ſtipulated ſums for their family.

ABSTRACT of an Average of three Years (viz. 1772, 73, and 74,) Returns from the Governors, Directors, &c. of the Workhouſes, &c. &c.

PARISHES.	N° of POOR. Able.	Infirm.	Infants.	Total.	Total, reckoning 2 children equal to one perſon.	Amount of food. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one perſon. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Amount of cloathing. L.	s.	d.	12ths
1. St Andrew, Holborn, &c. -	—	273	68	341	307	3218	18	0	0	9	8	9	6	10	9	8	4	774	6	11	0
2. Bethnal Green, - -	104	107	20	231	221	1252	0	0	0	5	8	4	7	5	13	3	7	176	0	5	0
3. Chriſt-Church, - - -	—	—	—	305	—	1724	0	0	0	5	13	0	7			—		254	0	0	0
4. St Clement's-Danes, - -	144	39	110	293	238	1024	11	9	0	3	9	11	4	4	6	1	2	462	18	5	0
5. St George, Hanover Square, -	179	291	137	607	539	3568	11	2	0	5	17	6	11	6	12	4	11	855	7	4	0
6. St Giles, - - -	163	244	32	439	423	2177	6	1	0	4	19	2	3	5	2	11	1	577	17	2	0
7. Greenwich, Eaſt, - -	57	18	38	113	94	1140	9	8	0	10	1	10	3	12	2	7	10	284	16	2	0
8. St James, Weſtminſter, - -	233	452	328	1013	849	2777	4	11	0	2	14	9	11	3	5	5	1	804	2	9	0
9. St John, Hackney, - -	—	—	—	140	—		—				—					—				—	
10. Launceſton and St Mary, -	—	18	4	22	20	103	13	4	0	4	14	2	10	5	3	8	0	24	13	4	0
11. St Luke, Middleſex, - -	—	—	—	412	—	2447	14	8	0	5	18	9	10			—		580	15	7	0
12. St Margaret and St John, Weſtminſter,	195	236	8	439	435	2206	4	9	0	5	0	6	1	5	1	5	0	538	17	4	0
13. St Martin in the Fields, -	—	591	13	604	598	3592	12	4	0	5	18	11	6	6	0	1	10	744	6	9	0
14. St Mary le-bone, Middleſex, -	69	91	76	236	198	1513	11	10	0	6	8	3	2	7	12	10	7	313	6	10	0
15. St Mary, Whitechapel, -	242	60	101	403	353	2010	6	8	0	4	19	9	2	5	13	10	9	376	0	0	0
16. St Nicholas, Deptford, - -	30	30	33	93	77	541	16	8	0	5	16	6	3	7	0	8	9	113	4	0	0
17. St Paul, Shadwell, - -	108	45	53	206	179	1231	0	0	0	5	19	6	2	6	17	6	6	210	14	9	0
18. St Saviour, Southwark, - -	144	49	124	317	255	1634	7	10	0	5	3	1	4	6	8	2	2	387	8	0	0
19. St Sepulchre, Middleſex, -	71	22	—	93	—	645	8	4	0	6	18	9	7			—		93	16	4	0

ABSTRACT of an Average of the three Years (viz. 1772, 73, and 74,) Returns, &c. continued.

PARISHES.	Expence of cloathing, per head.				Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person.				Amount of fuel.				Expence per head.				Amount of food, cloathing, and fuel.				Expence per head.				Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person.			
	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths
1. St Andrew, Holborn,	2	5	4	11	2	10	5	4	158	2	6	0	0	9	3	3	4151	7	5	0	12	3	5	8	13	10	5	4
2. Bethnal Green,	0	15	2	10	0	15	11	1	80	7	0	0	0	6	11	5	1508	7	5	0	6	10	7	1	6	16	6	0
3. Christ-Church,	0	16	7	10	—				90	0	0	0	0	5	10	9	2068	0	0	0	6	15	7	6	—			
4. St Clement's-Danes,	1	11	7	2	1	18	10	9	180	2	3	0	0	12	3	6	1667	12	5	0	5	13	10	0	7	0	1	5
5. St George, Hanover-Square	1	8	2	6	1	11	8	9	295	1	2	0	0	9	8	7	4718	19	8	0	7	15	5	9	8	15	1	2
6. St Giles,	1	6	3	10	1	7	3	10	136	16	6	0	0	6	2	9	2891	19	3	0	6	11	9	0	6	16	8	9
7. Greenwich, East,	2	10	4	10	3	0	7	2	69	16	1	0	0	12	4	3	1495	1	11	0	13	4	7	5	15	18	1	3
8. St James, Westminster,	0	15	10	6	0	18	11	3	149	18	8	0	0	2	11	6	3731	6	4	0	3	13	8	0	4	7	10	8
9. St John, Hackney,	—				—				—				—				1422	2	9	0	10	3	1	11	—			
10. Launceston and St Mary,	1	2	5	1	1	4	8	0	14	6	8	0	0	13	0	4	142	13	4	0	6	9	8	4	7	2	8	0
11. St Luke, Middlesex,	1	8	2	3	—				242	17	9	0	0	11	9	5	3271	8	6	0	7	18	9	8	—			
12. St Margaret and St John, Westminster,	1	4	6	7	1	4	9	3	141	13	8	0	0	6	5	5	2886	15	9	0	6	11	6	2	6	12	8	8
13. St Martin in the Fields,	1	4	7	9	1	4	10	8	259	14	5	0	0	8	7	2	4596	13	6	0	7	12	2	6	7	13	8	9
14. St Mary le-bone, Middlesex,	1	6	6	7	1	11	7	9	201	18	5	0	0	17	1	4	2028	17	1	0	8	11	11	2	10	4	11	2
15. St Mary, Whitechapel,	0	18	7	11	1	1	3	7	132	6	8	0	0	6	6	9	2518	13	4	0	6	4	11	11	7	2	8	4
16. St Nicholas, Deptford,	1	4	4	1	1	9	4	9	13	8	8	0	0	2	10	8	668	9	6	0	7	3	9	1	8	13	7	6
17. St Paul, Shadwell,	1	0	5	6	1	3	6	6	70	15	9	0	0	6	10	5	1512	10	6	0	7	6	10	1	8	8	11	11
18. St Saviour, Southwark.	1	4	5	3	1	10	4	7	215	19	3	0	0	13	7	6	2237	15	1	0	7	1	2	2	8	15	6	1
19. St Sepulchre, Middlesex,	1	0	2	1	—				35	9	8	0	0	7	7	6	774	14	4	0	8	6	7	3	—			

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ABSTRACT of an Average of the three Years (viz. 1772, 73, and 74,) Returns, &c. continued.

PARISHES.	Interest of houses & incidentals.				Expence per head.				Amount of food, cloathing, fuel, & houses.				Expence per head.				Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person.				Expence of management.			
	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths
1. St Andrew, Holborn,	362	3	10	0	1	1	2	10	4513	11	3	0	13	4	8	6	14	14	0	6	186	5	0	0
2. Bethnal Green,	1213	10	9	0	5	5	0	9	2721	18	2	0	11	15	7	11	12	6	3	11	155	1	10	0
3. Chriſt-Church,	796	0	0	0	2	12	2	4	2864	0	0	0	9	7	9	7		—			218	0	0	0
4. St Clement's-Danes,	1152	12	1	0	3	18	8	1	2820	4	6	0	9	12	6	2	11	16	11	10	223	6	8	0
5. St George, Hanover-Square,	2233	3	1	0	3	13	6	11	6952	2	9	0	11	9	0	9	12	17	11	6	700	6	2	0
6. St Giles,	565	17	8	0	1	5	9	4	3457	16	11	0	7	17	6	4	8	3	5	10	212	2	8	0
7. Greenwich, Eaſt,	841	11	3	0	7	8	11	4	2336	13	2	0	20	13	6	9	24	17	1	11	113	9	4	0
8. St James, Weſtminſter,	2400	14	10	0	2	7	4	9	6132	1	2	0	6	1	0	9	7	4	5	5	245	0	0	0
9. St John, Hackney,		—				—			1422	2	9	0	10	3	1	11		—			80	0	0	0
10. Launceſton and St Mary,	15	0	0	0	0	13	7	7	157	13	4	0	7	3	3	11	7	17	8	0	10	0	0	0
11. St Luke, Middleſex,	2628	9	2	0	6	7	7	1	5899	17	2	0	14	6	4	9		—			247	0	0	0
12. St Margaret and St John, Weſtminſter,	759	6	2	0	1	14	7	1	3646	1	11	0	8	6	1	3	8	7	7	7	177	8	1	0
13. St Martin in the Fields,	1413	0	5	0	2	6	9	4	6009	13	11	0	9	18	11	10	10	0	11	11	341	13	4	0
14. St Mary le-bone, Middleſex,	736	18	8	0	3	2	5	0	2765	15	9	0	11	14	4	2	13	9	3	3	310	18	2	0
15. St Mary, Whitechapel,	280	13	4	0	0	13	11	1	2799	6	8	0	6	18	11	0	7	18	7	2	228	0	0	0
16. St Nicholas, Deptford,	1081	11	2	0	11	12	7	1	1750	0	8	0	18	16	4	2	22	14	6	7	53	10	1	0
17. St Paul, Shadwell,	649	12	2	0	3	3	0	9	2162	2	8	0	10	9	10	11	12	1	6	11	72	10	0	0
18. St Saviour, Southwark,	958	0	9	0	3	0	5	3	3195	15	10	0	10	1	7	6	12	10	7	9	156	0	0	0
19. St Sepulchre, Middleſex,		—				—			774	14	4	0	8	6	7	3		—			51	10	0	0

ABSTRACT of an Average of the three Years (viz. 1772, 73, and 74,) Returns, &c. continued.

PARISHES.	Expence of management per head.				Amount of the expence of the workhouse.				Expence per head.				Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person.				Net money earned by labour.				Earnings per head.			
	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths
1. St Andrew, Holborn, - -	0	10	11	1	4699	16	3	0	13	15	7	9	15	6	2	1	40	0	0	0	0	2	11	1
2. Bethnal Green, - -	0	13	5	1	2877	0	0	0	12	9	1	1	13	0	4	4	347	7	3	0	1	12	11	1
3. Chriſt-Church, - - -	0	14	3	6	3082	0	0	0	10	2	1	2		—			553	10	8	0	1	16	3	6
4. St Clement's-Danes, - -	0	15	2	11	3043	11	2	0	10	7	9	2	12	15	9	1	152	10	6	0	0	16	8	0
5. St George, Hanover-Square, -	1	3	0	10	7652	8	11	0	12	12	1	8	14	3	11	4	205	6	7	0	0	8	8	10
6. St Giles, - - - -	0	9	7	11	3669	19	7	0	8	7	2	4	8	13	3	5	89	11	11	0	0	4	4	9
7. Greenwich, Eaſt, - -	1	0	0	11	2450	2	6	0	21	13	7	9	26	1	3	7	225	6	11	0	3	0	0	11
8. St James, Weſtminſter, - -	0	4	10	0	6377	1	2	0	6	5	10	10	7	10	2	8	150	13	8	0	0	4	4	9
9. St John Hackney, - -	0	11	5	1	1502	2	9	0	10	14	7	1		—			82	11	4	0	0	11	9	6
10. Launceſton and St Mary, -	0	9	1	1	167	13	4	0	7	12	5	0	8	7	8	0	16	0	0	0	0	17	9	4
11. St Luke Middleſex, - - -	0	11	11	10	6146	17	2	0	14	18	4	8		—			413	4	6	0	1	0	0	8
12. St Margaret and St John, Weſtminſter,	0	8	0	11	3823	10	0	0	8	14	2	3	8	15	9	6	113	9	4	0	0	5	3	2
13. St Martin in the Fields, - -	0	11	3	9	6351	7	3	0	10	10	3	8	10	12	5	0	208	1	7	0	0	7	0	5
14. St Mary le-bone, Middleſex, -	1	6	4	2	3076	13	11	0	13	0	8	10	15	10	9	3	55	1	3	0	0	6	10	7
15. St Mary, Whitechapel, - -	0	11	3	9	3027	6	8	0	7	10	2	9	8	11	6	2	204	10	10	0	0	13	6	6
16. St Nicholas, Deptford, -	0	11	6	0	1803	10	9	0	19	7	10	2	23	8	5	4	53	10	0	0	0	17	10	0
17. St Paul, Shadwell, - - -	0	7	0	5	2234	12	8	0	10	16	11	5	12	9	8	1	76	4	1	0	0	9	11	6
18. St Saviour, Southwark, -	0	9	10	1	3351	15	10	0	10	11	5	7	13	2	10	7	132	13	4	0	0	13	8	11
19. St Sepulchre, Middleſex. - -	0	11	0	10	826	4	4	0	8	17	8	2		—			31	8	10	0	0	6	9	1

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ABSTRACT of an Average of the three Years (viz. 1772, 73, and 74,) Returns, &c. continued.

PARISHES.	Earnings, reckoning only the able.				Allowance to out-poor.				Total expence of poor.				Money raised by the poor's rates.				Average amount of the rates when the house was first built.			
	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths
1. St Andrew, Holborn,		—			750	5	9	0	5,450	2	0	0	5662	3	7	0		—		
2. Bethnal Green,	3	6	9	7	102	10	3	0	2,979	10	3	0	2069	15	6	0	1648	15	11	0
3. Chriſt-Church,		—			794	8	0	0	3,876	8	0	0	3089	1	5	4		—		
4. St Clement's-Danes,	1	1	2	2	1546	3	10	8	4,589	15	0	8	4635	7	10	4		—		
5. St George, Hanover-Square,	1	2	10	8	3055	18	1	0	10,708	7	0	0	9804	3	6	8		—		
6. St Giles,	0	10	11	10	1199	8	6	4	4,869	8	1	4	4834	6	7	4		—		
7. Greenwich, Eaſt,	3	19	0	9	92	8	3	8	2,542	10	9	8	1999	8	1	8	2093	0	0	0
8. St James, Weſtminſter,	0	13	6	2	2335	9	6	4	8,712	10	8	4	7564	9	8	8		—		
9. St John, Hackney,		—			322	2	9	4	1,824	5	6	4	2368	19	9	4		—		
10. Launceſton and St Mary,		—			37	0	0	0	204	13	4	0	623	15	9	4	201	13	8	0
11. St Luke, Middleſex,		—			909	16	8	8	7,056	13	10	8	4748	19	6	0		—		
12. St Margaret and St John, Weſtminſter,	0	11	7	7	883	7	2	4	4,706	17	2	4	4176	11	2	4		—		
13. St Martin in the Fields,		—			2217	16	5	4	8,569	3	8	4	9180	12	4	4	9670	15	6	0
14. St Mary le-bone, Middleſex,	0	15	11	6	1272	0	11	4	4,348	14	10	4	4312	7	6	0		—		
15. St Mary, Whitechapel,	0	16	10	10		—			3,027	6	8	0	4274	18	3	0	5000	0	0	0
16. St Nicholas, Deptford,	1	15	8	0	13	12	6	0	1,817	3	3	0	814	18	7	4	643	6	9	0
17. St Paul, Shadwell,	0	14	1	4		—			2,234	12	8	0	2130	19	7	4	1153	18	6	0
18. St Saviour, Southwark,	0	18	5	1	796	11	6	0	4,148	7	4	0	3972	0	0	0		—		
19. St Sepulchre, Middleſex,	0	8	10	3	484	3	9	8	1,310	8	1	8	1241	4	5	4	505	0	0	0

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ABSTRACT of an Average of the three Years (viz. 72, 73, and 74,) Returns, &c. continued.

PARISHES.	Discharged of debts within the three years.				Remains of debt.				Total expence.				NUMBER of POOR who DIED.			
	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	Able.	Infirm.	Infants.	Total.
1. St Andrew, Holborn,	—				—				5,950	4	8	8	—	113	14	127
2. Bethnal Green,	3750	0	0	0	828	6	0	0	3,343	3	2	8	—	39	10	49
3. Chriſt-Church,	—				2,000	0	0	0	3,876	8	0	0	—	—	—	95
4. St Clement's-Danes,	—				12,200	0	0	0	4,896	5	1	0	37	15	13	65
5. St George, Hanover-Square,	—				—				10,678	4	5	4	44	138	3	220
6. St Giles,	—				—				4,869	8	1	8	—	203	42	245
7. Greenwich, Eaſt,	150	0	0	0	1,350	0	0	0	2,542	10	11	4	11	21	27	59
8. St James, Weſtminſter,	—				—				8,712	13	3	0	—	185	105	290
9. St John, Hackney,	—				—				—				—	—	—	23
10. Launceſton and St Mary,	—				—				207	0	0	0	—	4	—	4
11. St Luke, Middleſex,	—				2,050	0	0	0	7,056	13	11	4	—	—	—	129
12. St Margaret and St John, Weſtminſter,	—				—				4,706	17	6	2	34	83	26	143
13. St Martin in the Fields,	2536	6	9	0	11,025	0	0	0	8,569	3	8	0	—	190	36	226
14. St Mary le-bone, Middleſex,	—				—				4,348	14	9	0	21	31	33	85
15. St Mary, Whitechapel,	1325	0	0	0	4,075	0	0	0	3,027	6	8	0	65	54	9	128
16. St Nicholas, Deptford,	—				200	0	0	0	950	3	3	4	7	5	7	19
17. St Paul, Shadwell,	—				2,500	0	0	0	2,234	13	4	8	30	15	4	49
18. St Saviour, Southwark,	—				—				4,148	7	4	4	35	52	27	114
19. St Sepulchre, Middleſex,	—				—				1,310	8	1	10	7	11	—	18

OBSER-

OBSERVATIONS

BY THE

COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE of COMMONS.

Saint Andrew, Holborn, above the Bars, and St George the Martyr.

BESIDES the medium number of poor in each year, there were children at nurſe, viz. in 1772, - - 96
1773, - - - 134
1774, - - 142

Total, 372

The expences whereof, as well as debts in former years, are included in Expence of Maintaining. In Allowance to Poor out of the Houſe, is included caſual poor, and perſons with travelling paſſes.

Bethnal Green, Middleſex.

In 1772 and 73, the food, cloathing, and fuel, was ſupplied by contract, *(ſo the ſums ſet down for theſe articles is not an average, but the ſums for* 1774).

St Clement-Danes in Weſtminſter.

In the ſums allowed for Out-poor, is diſtinguiſhed the money for nurſing children, viz. in 1772, - - L. 334 16 7
1773, - - 349 1 6
1774, - - 347 7 6

Total, L. 1031 5 7

The incidentals include furniture and county-rates. Candles are included in the expence of fuel.

Greenwich, Eaſt

The total numbers of Poor in the account far exceeds the ſeparate numbers; from whence it may be preſumed the children at nurſe are included in the totals. *The ſum total of the ſalaries falls very ſhort of the ſeparate ſums added together. The ſum marked being, on an average,* L. 113 9 4
and the ſeparate ſums added together comes to, 218 16 0

St Luke, Middleſex.

It is preſumed the account tranſmitted muſt be wrong; becauſe the ſums ſtated as Total Expences do not anſwer to the particular ſums caſt together. Either way they far exceed the income; and at the ſame time no notice is taken of an increaſing debt.

Be-

St Margaret & St John, Weſtminſter. Beſides the money raiſed by the rates, there were ſums by incidental receipts, viz. 1772, - - L. 315 3 6
1773, - - 281 13 1
1774, - - 312 12 11

Total, L. 909 9 6

And in the account of Able Poor are included many children. The total expences each year ſtated in the Returns, does not agree with the ſeveral ſums of which it ſhould conſiſt. *Note*, It appears by the Returns, that the annual expences are more than the receipts, and yet there does not appear to be any debt.

Saint Mary le-bone, Middleſex. Beſides the money before mentioned to have been earned, the poor manufactured linen-cloth to the following amount:

viz. in 1772, -	329½ ells,	L. 21	13	5
1773, - -	701	48	1	5
1774, -	1480	112	11	9½
Total,	2510½	L. 182	6	7½

This ſum on an average is L. 60 15 6 6/12
Add the earnings as ſet down, 55 1 3

Total earnings, L. 115 16 9 6/12

Earnings per head,			Earnings per head, reckoning the able.		
L.	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*
0	9	9 0/12	1	13	6 11/12

St Mary, Whitechapel. There are about 120 children at nurſe, which coſt about L. 1000 per annum, about L. 8 : 6 : 8 per head.

ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT of the Average of three Years (viz. 1772, 73, and 74,) Returns from the Governors, Directors, &c. of the Workhouſes, &c. &c.

PARISHES not under any particular act.	Number of parishes.	NUMBER of POOR. Able.	Infirm.	Infants.	Total.	Total, reckoning 2 children equal to one person.	Amount of food. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head, reckoning every ſoul. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Amount of cloathing. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence of cloathing, per head. L.	s.	d.	12ths
1. Barnſtaple,	1	15	41	18	74	65	250	9	4	0	3	7	8	3	3	17	0	9	55	6	0	0	0	14	11	4
2. Baſingſtoke,	1	21	19	18	58	49		—				—				—				—				—		
3. Bermondſey, St Mary,	1	169	69	43	281	260	1341	1	2	0	4	15	5	4	5	3	1	10	220	14	1	0	0	15	8	6
4. Derby, All-Saints,	1	19	28	23	70	59	348	2	4	0	4	19	5	6	5	18	0	0	52	13	11	0	0	15	0	8
5. Ditto, St Michael,	1	5	7	4	16	14	80	19	10	0	5	1	2	10	5	15	8	5	2	3	3	8	0	2	8	5
6. Ditto, St Peter,	1	—	—	—	88	—	122	6	8	0	1	7	9	7		—			11	12	9	0	0	2	7	8
7. Faverſham,	1	14	26	7	47	44	318	8	5	0	6	15	6	0	7	4	8	10	66	6	7	0	1	8	2	8
8. Lydd in Kent,	1	—	—	—	33	—		—				—				—				—				—		
9. Monmouth,	1	5	8	14	27	20	179	8	1	0	6	12	10	8	8	9	4	10	22	10	0	0	0	16	8	0
10. Portſmouth,	1	53	36	52	141	115	603	7	1	0	4	5	6	10	5	4	11	1	133	5	1	0	0	18	10	9
11. Portſea,	—	52	80	45	177	155	617	13	4	0	3	9	9	6	3	19	9	1	158	18	4	0	0	17	11	5
12. Preſton,	1	4	39	9	52	48	155	11	9	0	2	19	10	1	3	4	9	11	43	10	8	0	0	16	8	11
13. Reading, St Giles,	1	33	34	13	80	74	428	18	5	0	5	7	2	9	5	15	11	1	68	11	6	0	0	17	1	8
14. Ditto, St Laurence,	1	39	27	24	90	78	407	12	9	0	4	10	7	0	5	4	6	3	89	3	5	0	0	19	9	9
15. Ditto, St Mary,	1	16	20	16	52	44	352	6	8	0	6	15	6	1	8	0	1	9	50	0	0	0	0	19	2	9
16. Tiverton,	—	77	96	48	221	197	483	7	6	0	2	5	6	7	2	9	0	10	163	7	6	0	0	14	9	5
17. Truro,	1	1	5	36	42	24	210	5	8	0	5	0	1	7	8	15	2	10	65	1	1	0	1	10	11	8

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A B-

ABSTRACT of an Average of the three Years (viz. 1772, 73, and 74,) Returns, &c. continued.

PARISHES not under any particular act.	Expence of cloathing per head, reckoning 2 children equal to 1 perſon.				Amount of fuel.				Expence per head.				Amount of food, cloathing, and fuel.				Expence per head.				Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one perſon.				Intereſt of houſes and incidentals.				Expence per head, reckoning every ſoul.			
	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.		L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.		L.	s.	d.	12ths
1. Barnſtaple, -	0	17	0	2	14	7	4	0	0	3	10	7	320	2	8		4	6	6	2	4	18	4	2	14	0	0		0	3	9	4
2. Baſingſtoke, -		—				—				—			433	6	8		7	9	5	1	8	16	10	5	29	12	11		0	10	2	8
3. Bermondſey, St Mary,	0	16	11	4	83	14	0	0	0	5	11	5	1645	9	3		5	17	1	4	6	6	6	10	437	4	2		1	11	1	5
4. Derby, All-Saints,	0	17	10	4	17	1	4	0	0	4	10	6	417	17	7		5	19	4	8	7	1	7	10	121	15	6		1	14	9	6
5. Ditto St Michael,	0	3	1	1	7	12	0	0	0	9	6	0	90	15	2		5	13	5	4	6	9	7	10		—				—		
6. Ditto, St Peter, -		—			6	3	4	0	0	1	4	9	140	2	9		1	11	10	2		—			39	4	1		0	8	10	11
7. Feverſham, - -	1	10	1	9	23	5	1	0	0	9	10	8	408	0	1		8	13	7	5	9	5	5	5	135	15	10		2	17	9	4
8. Lydd in Kent, -		—				—				—			193	1	0		5	17	0	0		—				—				—		
9. Monmouth, - -	1	2	6	0	5	0	0	0	0	3	8	5	206	18	1		7	13	3	1	10	6	8	0		—				—		
10. Portſmouth, -	1	3	2	1	51	18	10	0	0	7	4	4	788	11	0		5	11	10	2	6	16	3	1	159	10	1		1	2	7	5
11. Portſea, - -	1	0	6	0	49	6	2	0	0	5	6	10	825	17	10		4	13	3	10	5	6	6	9	31	3	8		0	3	6	3
12. Preſton, -	0	18	1	8	17	5	7	0	0	6	7	9	216	8	0		4	3	2	9	4	10	2	0	58	18	3		1	2	7	10
13. Reading, St Giles,	0	18	6	4	34	17	10	0	0	8	8	8	532	7	9		6	13	1	1	7	3	10	7	98	4	0		1	4	6	7
14. Ditto, St Laurence,	1	2	10	4	33	8	9	0	0	7	5	2	530	4	11		5	17	9	11	6	15	11	6	126	11	11		1	8	1	7
15. Ditto, St Mary, -	1	2	8	8	35	0	0	0	0	13	5	6	437	6	8		8	8	2	3	9	18	9	5	59	10	0		1	2	10	7
16. Tiverton, - -	0	16	7	0		—				—			1346	15	0		6	1	10	6	6	16	8	8	64	19	7		0	5	10	6
17. Truro, - -	2	14	2	6		—				—			275	6	9		6	11	1	4	11	9	5	4	91	9	10		2	3	6	9

A B-

ABSTRACT of an Average of the three Years (viz. 1772, 73, and 74,) Returns, &c. continued.

PARISHES not under any particular act.	Amount of food, cloathing, fuel, and houſes.				Expence per head,				Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one perſon.				Expence of management.				Expence per head, reckoning every ſoul.				Amount of the expence of work-houſes.				Expence per head.			
	L.	*s.*	*d.*	12ths	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	12ths	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	12ths	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	12ths	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	12ths	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	12ths	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	12ths
1. Barnſtaple, - -	334	2	8	0	4	10	3	6	5	2	9	8	28	0	0	0	0	7	6	9	362	2	8	0	4	17	10	5
2. Baſinſtoke, -	462	19	7	0	7	19	7	9	9	8	11	7		—				—			462	19	7	0	7	19	7	9
3. Bermondſey, St Mary,	2082	13	5	0	7	8	2	9	8	0	2	5	192	4	0	0	0	13	8	0	2274	17	5	0	8	1	10	11
4. Derby, All-Saints,	539	13	1	0	7	14	2	2	9	2	11	2	20	0	0	0	0	5	8	6	559	13	1	0	7	19	10	9
5. Ditto, St Michael,	90	15	2	0	5	13	5	4	6	9	7	10		—				—			90	15	2	0	5	13	5	4
6. Ditto, St Peter, -	179	6	10	0	2	0	9	2		—			17	4	5	0	0	3	10	11	196	11	3	0	2	4	8	8
7. Faverſham, -	543	15	11	0	11	11	4	9	12	7	2	1	47	2	0	0	1	0	0	6	590	17	11	0	12	11	5	4
8. Lydd in Kent, -	193	1	0	0	5	17	0	0		—			3	0	0	0	0	1	9	9	196	1	0	0	5	18	9	9
9. Monmouth, - -	206	18	1	0	7	13	3	1	10	6	8	0	10	0	0	0	0	7	4	10	216	18	1	0	8	0	8	0
10. Portſmouth, -	948	1	1	0	6	14	5	8	8	4	10	6	45	0	0	0	0	6	4	7	993	1	1	0	7	0	10	3
11. Portſea, - -	857	1.	6	0	4	16	10	1	5	10	7	1	27	5	8	0	0	3	0	11	884	7	2	0	4	19	11	1
12. Preſton, - -	275	6	3	0	5	5	10	7	5	14	8	6	59	0	0	0	1	2	8	3	334	6	3	0	6	8	6	10
13. Reading, St Giles,	630	11	9	0	7	17	7	8	8	9	0	11	41	4	4	0	0	10	3	7	671	16	1	0	8	7	11	3
14. Ditto, St Laurence,	659	16	10	0	7	5	11	6	8	9	2	3	32	9	8	0	0	7	2	9	689	6	6	0	7	13	2	3
15. Ditto, St Mary, -	496	16	8	0	9	11	0	10	11	5	10	0	23	19	0	0	0	9	2	7	520	15	8	0	10	0	3	6
16. Tiverton, - -	1411	14	7	0	6	7	9	1	7	3	3	10	57	8	0	0	0	5	2	4	1469	2	7	0	6	12	11	5
17. Truro, - - -	336	16	7	0	8	14	8	2	15	5	8	2	20	16	8	0	0	9	11	0	387	13	3	0	9	4	7	2

ABSTRACT of an Average of the three Years (viz. 72, 73, and 74,) Returns, &c. continued.

PARISHES not under any particular act.	Expence of workhouse per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person.				Net money earned by labour.				Earnings per head.				Earnings per head, reckoning able only.				Allowance to out-poor for occasional relief.				Total expence of poor.				Money raised by the poor's rate.			
	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths
1. Barnſtaple, -	5	11	5	1	33	13	6	0	0	12	0	3	2	4	10	9	451	13	9	0	813	16	5	0	813	16	5	0
2. Baſingſtoke, -	9	8	11	7	20	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	19	0	6	75	0	0	0	537	19	7	8	462	19	7	8
3. Bermondſey, St Mary,	8	14	11	10	173	18	0	0	0	14	7	4	1	0	6	11		—			2274	17	5	8	2061	18	8	8
4. Derby, All-Saints,	9	9	8	6	81	2	6	0	1	14	6	1	4	5	4	8	269	14	4	0	829	7	5	0	729	4	7	0
5. Ditto, St Michael,	6	9	7	10		—				—				—			0	—			90	15	2	0	89	7	11	4
6. Ditto, St Peter, -		—			12	4	4	0	0	2	9	3		—			109	12	11	8	306	4	2	8	293	16	7	4
7. Faverſham, - -	13	8	7	0	28	15	8	0	0	14	4	7	2	1	1	5	225	11	5	8	816	9	4	8	849	1	2	0
8. Lydd in Kent, -		—				—				—				—			106	6	8	8	302	7	8	8	301	12	11	4
9. Monmouth, - -	10	16	10	10	33	10	8	0	2	11	7	0	6	14	1	7	93	12	0	0	310	10	1	0	272	10	2	0
10. Portſmouth, -	8	12	8	5	23	17	8	0	0	5	4	4	0	9	2	2	209	12	5	4	1202	13	6	4	1199	16	9	4
11. Portſea, - -	5	14	1	3	113	13	4	0	0	17	2	8	2	3	8	7	154	3	7	4	1038	10	9	4	1082	17	3	4
12. Preſton, -	6	19	3	6	11	1	11	0	0	5	1	11	2	15	5	9	346	6	4	0	680	12	7	0	639	0	10	0
13. Reading, St Giles,	9	1	6	9	99	6	4	0	1	9	7	9	3	0	2	2	163	8	8	8	835	4	9	8	724	13	7	8
14. Ditto, St Laurence,	8	16	10	6	121	10	0	0	1	16	9	9	3	2	3	8	133	5	5	0	822	11	11	0	741	0	10	0
15. Ditto, St Mary, -	11	16	8	7	43	2	10	0	1	3	11	7	2	13	11	1	378	8	7	0	899	4	3	0	1063	19	0	0
16. Tiverton, - -	7	9	1	9	108	16	10	0	0	12	7	0	1	8	3	2	705	10	5	0	2174	13	0	0	2398	1	8	0
17. Truro, - -	16	3	0	7		—				—				—			45	18	9	8	433	12	0	8	497	6	10	4

A B-

ABSTRACT of an Average of the three Years (viz. 1772, 73, and 74,) Returns, &c. continued.

PARISHES not under any particular act.	Average amount of poor's rate before the house was built.			Discharged of debt within the three years.				Remains of debt.				Total expence.				NUMBER of POOR who DIED.			
																Able.	Infirm.	Infants.	Total.
	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths				
1. Barnſtaple, -	449	11	8		—				—			813	16	5	6	—	19	—	19
2. Baſingſtoke, -	250	2	6		—				—			537	19	7	8	3	6	4	13
3. Bermondſey, St Mary,		—			—				—			2274	17	5	8	5	30	26	61
4. Derby, All Saints,		—			—				—			829	7	5	8	1	8	4	13
5. Ditto, St Michael *,		—			—				—			90	15	2	4	—	2	—	2
6. Ditto, St Peter, -		—			—				—			306	4	3	4	—	—	—	—
7. Faverſham, - -		—			—			150	0	0	0	816	9	6	0	1	3	—	4
8. Lydd in Kent †, -		—			—				—			296	6	2	0	—	1	—	1
9. Monmouth, -	414	2	3		—				—			310	10	1	8	1	15	3	9
10. Portſmouth, -		—			—				—			1202	13	7	4	25	19	14	38
11. Portſea, - -	473	10	1	45	8	0	0	38	17	6	0	1038	10	9	4	2	29	10	41
12. Preſton, - -	400	0	0		—				—			680	12	7	4	2	7	1	10
13. Reading, St Giles,	669	0	7		—			300	0	0	0	835	4	10	8	7	13	7	27
14. Ditto, St Laurence,	753	13	6	79	10	11	8	550	0	0	0	822	12	0	0	7	8	8	23
15. Ditto, St Mary, -	940	0	0		—			1250	0	0	0	899	4	3	0	4	3	—	7
16. Tiverton ‡, - -		—		134	5	4	4	922	15	6	0		—			4	9	10	23
17. Truro, - -		—			—				—			433	12	1	4	—	9	4	13

* The poor are farmed out.

† There is no totals for food, cloathing, and fuel, but ſaid to be 2s. 3d. per head.

‡ The fuel is included with food by contract.

OBSER-

THE Abſtracts of the Returns made by the overſeers of the ſeveral pariſhes and places within the weekly bills of mortality, to queſtions propoſed to them by the Committee of the Houſe of Commons, are omitted, as they are not very correct: moſt of the Poor are let out at different rates, viz.

from 4s. 3d. per head, weekly,	L. 11	1	0	per ann.	for grown people,	
to 3s. 6d. ditto, ditto,	9	2	0	ditto,	ditto,	
and from 3s. 6d. per head, weekly,	9	2	0	ditto,	for children,	
to 5½d. ditto, per day,	8	7	3½	ditto,	ditto.	

In ſome pariſhes, what they call *Out-poor*, have penſions

from 1s. per week,	L. 2	12s.	per annum,	as neceſſity requires,
to 3s. 6d. ditto,	9	2s.	ditto,	

The following account of the expences of the Poorhouſe of St Cuthbert's pariſh, Edinburgh, is given for the three years immediately after the houſe was opened; and likewiſe for the three laſt years.

An

An Account of the Poor-House of St Cuthbert's Parish, Edinburgh.

Years.	No of Poor. Able.	Infirm.	Infants.	Total.	Total, reckoning 2 children equal to one person.	Amount of food. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head, reckoning every soul. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Amount of cloathing. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head, reckoning every soul. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person. L.	s.	d.	12ths
1763,	—	—	—	97	—	230	18	4	0	2	7	7	4			—		37	17	4	9	0	0	7	9				
64,	—	—	—	103	—	260	9	3	0	2	10	6	1			—		29	4	10	0	0	0	5	8				
65,	—	—	—	113	—	316	8	0	3	2	16	0	0			—		27	13	0	9	0	0	4	10				9
1783,	31	85	49	165	140	463	0	8	0	2	16	1	6	3	6	1	9	49	12	3	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	0
84,	29	91	50	170	145	470	7	3	0	2	15	4	0	3	4	10	6	56	15	8	0	0	0	6	8	1	0	8	7
85,	33	98	45	176	153	492	15	7	0	2	15	11	11	3	4	4	11	65	6	0	0	0	0	7	5	0	0	6	0

Years.	Amount of fuel. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head, reckoning every soul. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Amount of food, cloathing, and fuel. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head. reckoning every soul. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one person. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Interest of houses & incidentals, repairs, groundrent, candles, &c. L.	s.	d.	12ths	Expence per head, reckoning every soul. L.	s.	d.	12ths
1763,	32	2	3	6	0	6	7	4			—		300	18	0	3	3	2	0	5			—		31	16	9	0	0	6	6	9
64,	33	8	9	6	0	6	5	11			—		323	2	10	6	3	2	8	11			—		14	13	8	0	0	2	10	2
65,	32	10	6	9	0	5	9	1			—		376	11	7	9	3	6	7	9			—		19	3	0	0	0	3	4	8
1783,	60	12	6	0	0	7	4	2	0	8	7	11	573	5	5	0	3	9	5	10	4	1	10	9	35	12	0	0	0	4	3	9
84,	64	12	3	0	0	7	7	2	0	8	10	11	591	15	2	0	3	9	7	5	4	1	7	5	26	15	7	0	0	3	1	9
85,	61	12	3	9	0	7	0	0	0	8	0	7	619	13	10	9	3	10	5	0	4	1	0	0	22	7	4	0	0	2	6	6

An

An ACCOUNT of the POOR-HOUSE of St Cuthbert's Pariſh, Edinburgh, continued.

YEARS.	Expence of incidentals per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one perſon.				Amount of food, cloathing, fuel, & houſes.				Expence per head, reckoning every ſoul.				Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one perſon.				Expence of management.				Expence per head, reckoning every ſoul.				Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one perſon.				Amount of the expence of the workhouſe.			
	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths
1763,			—		332	14	9	3	3	8	7	3			—		55	14	0	0	0	11	5	9			—		388	8	9	3
64,			—		337	16	6	6	3	5	7	2			—		55	14	0	0	0	10	9	9			—		393	10	6	6
65,			—		395	14	7	9	3	10	0	5			—		55	14	0	0	0	9	10	3			—		451	8	7	9
1783,	0	5	1	0	608	17	5	0	3	13	9	7	4	6	11	9	78	4	0	0	0	9	5	8	0	11	2	0	687	1	5	0
84,	0	3	8	3	618	10	9	0	3	12	9	2	4	5	3	9	78	4	0	0	0	9	2	4	0	10	9	5	696	14	9	0
85,	0	2	11	1	642	1	2	9	3	12	11	6	4	3	11	1	78	4	0	0	0	8	10	7	0	10	2	8	720	5	2	9

YEARS.	Expence of workhouſe per head, reckoning every ſoul.				Expence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to one perſon.				Net money earned by labour.				Earnings per head, reckoning every ſoul.				Earnings, reckoning only the able.				Collections at the church door.				Amount of aſſeſſment.				Total amount of the funds.			
	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths	L.	s.	d.	12ths
1763,	4	0	1	1			—		37	7	6	0	0	7	8	5			—		301	0	6	9			—				—	
64,	3	16	4	11			—		42	19	5	0	0	8	4	1			—		206	18	1	3			—				—	
65,	3	19	10	9			—		58	6	0	0	0	10	3	9			—		286	9	2	9			—				—	
1783,	4	3	3	4	4	18	1	10	76	5	2	0	0	9	2	11	0	10	10	8	316	14	1	9	616	1	0	0	932	15	1	9
84,	4	1	11	7	4	16	1	2	94	15	0	0	0	11	1	9	0	13	0	9	345	9	7	3	533	10	0	0	878	19	7	3
85,	4	1	10	1	4	14	1	9	99	0	0	0	0	11	3	0	0	12	11	3	379	10	4	3	498	18	0	0	878	8	4	3

OBSER-

THESE Tables will poſſibly appear too minute and tedious to many; but they are meant to ſave trouble to thoſe who chooſe to think on the important ſubject.—To them they will point out the neceſſity of giving ſome check both to the pariſh-officers and the poor†: "For men are more apt, "than commonly is imagined, to eſtimate the needs of others by their own "feelings, to a certain degree at leaſt; as the late Dauphin of France, "when ſome were talking to him of the extreme miſery of the people, ſaid; "Poor wretches, I pity them! but I ſuppoſe that they have a pullet at "leaſt, or ſome ſuch thing for their ſupper ‡."

The Tables likewiſe ſhow how neceſſary it is for thoſe who have charge of the poor to be well acquainted with the earnings of an induſtrious labourer, before they adminiſter relief to a pauper. For giving too much to the poor, not only occaſions their extravagant expences, but incites idleneſs in them, and actually diſcourages induſtry in others.

The reaſons for the increaſe of the poor ſeem partly to ariſe from the following cauſes.

1ſt, From the poor no longer looking on it as their buſineſs to ſeek out employment to themſelves, but unleſs it is offered to them, think that the pariſh is bound to find it for them, or to maintain them: So that they are become idle, unthankful, and inſolent to their ſuperiors.

2dly, From the labouring people having loſt the deſire of laying up any frugal proviſion for themſelves, as they know that the public is bound to provide for them: and that knowledge has made them no longer reckon it a duty to aſſiſt even their neareſt connections or relations; for they conſider all to be lawful gain that they can ſqueeze from the pariſh.

3dly, From the pariſh aſſiſtance being often too liberal; being ſometimes as much, if not more ſo, than could be got by actual labour.

4thly, From the office of church-wardens and overſeers being only annual; which muſt ever prevent any regular plan of adminiſtration being adopted and regularly purſued.

5thly, From the overſeers making the rates, with allowance of the juſtices, inſtead of the aſſeſſment being laid on by the pariſhioners; which

† This was the opinion of Dr Franklin, as appears by a note on a paper concerning the poor, in his Political, Miſcellaneous, and Philoſophical Pieces, publiſhed about 1780 or 1781.—"The late Mr Owen Ruffhead, who was ſome time employed in preparing a digeſt of our poor "laws, communicated a copy of it to Dr Franklin, who recommended that proviſion ſhould "be made therein for printing one ſheet of paper, and diſperſing in each pariſh of the kingdom "annual accounts of every diſburſement, and receipt of its officers. It is obvious to remark, "how greatly this muſt tend to check both officers and the poor; and to inform and intereſt "the pariſhioners with reſpect to pariſh concerns. Some of the American colonies actually "practiſe this meaſure, with a ſucceſs that might juſtify its adoption here."

‡ See note on page 180 of the Legiſlation of Corn, publiſhed by Longman, Pater Noſter-Row, London, in 1776.

has occaſioned an inattention in individuals to this buſineſs, in which their intereſt is ſo materially concerned.

6*thly*, From the eaſe of applying to a juſtice of peace, in caſe of a refuſal of relief from the overſeers or veſtry; who may perhaps ſometimes order relief, without ſufficiently inveſtigating the overſeers or veſtry's reaſon for refuſal, or enquiring whether the diſtreſs of the pauper does not proceed from his own idleneſs or debauchery.

7*thly*, From the opulent and better informed part of the pariſhioners declining this important part of their duty, attention to the poor, and leaving it to inferior people, who are ignorant and unexperienced, and as unwilling as their betters to give themſelves trouble, or diſoblige their neighbours.

8*thly*, From the funds being eſtabliſhed without limitation; which will ever create more or leſs poor according to the diligence and ſagacity of thoſe who adminiſter the relief.

9*thly*, From the high wages given in ſome trades and manufactures.—"It is remarkable, that thoſe who are reduced to the greateſt poverty, are "not ſuch who have had the loweſt, but commonly ſuch as have worked "for the higheſt, wages *;" who, thinking that they can afford more than others, get into a habit of drinking, to the ruin of themſelves and families.

10*thly*, From the great number of alehouſes; which give to the common people ſo many temptations, and opportunities of ſpending their time, diſſipating their ſubſtance, and deſtroying their morals.

11*thly*, From the want of proper ſchools, and enforcing the parents to bring up their children in habits of induſtry.

12*thly*, From the want of convenient and proper priſons near the ſeveral pariſhes, in order to confine common beggars and vagrants, and to puniſh the idle, diſſolute, and refractory.

Dr Burn has publiſhed an hiſtory of the poor-laws, with many ſenſible obſervations. He there ſays, That till "the nuiſance of common begging "is prevented, all other regulations of the wiſeſt legiſlature will be fruit-"leſs." The ſeverity of the laws againſt vagrancy have defeated themſelves: they therefore ſhould be altered, in hopes that milder puniſhments may have better effects.

"It does not appear (continues he) for what reaſon the clauſe in for-"mer acts is now repealed, whereby a rogue and vagabond, for want of "other ſettlements, was to be ſent to the laſt place where he paſſed unap-"prehended." If this were revived, and ſomewhat enlarged, he is of opinion it might have good effects. And he adds ſome good regulations about paſſes for diſbanded ſoldiers and ſhipwrecked ſailors. He ſtrongly adviſes to try a few alterations of the laws at firſt. And in order to follow that

* See Dr Macfarlan's Inquiries concerning the Poor, p. 30.

that idea, and in hopes of obviating in ſome meaſure the defects of the preſent ones, the following regulations are ſuggeſted, as they might poſſibly be tried with ſome ſucceſs; and in caſe they fail, no bad effects can happen from them.

1. In order to ſuppreſs vagrants and beggars, and the refractory poor, there ſhould be proper priſons, with ſix or more cells (according to the ſize and circumſtances of the diſtrict), for ſolitary confinement, built in ſome proper and commodious place, and as centrical as poſſible to the ſeveral pariſhes for whoſe uſe they are intended.

2. That part of the old laws, ordering the keeping of proper pariſh-books, muſt be duly enforced, and making the care of the poor part of the miniſter's duty, as it was formerly.

3. That the miniſter, together with the church-wardens and overſeers, ſhould be called the *Guardians of the Poor*, and be made a body corporate, as the church-wardens are at preſent.

4. That the rector, vicar, or curate, reſiding in the pariſh or chapelry, ſhall name one church-warden, and the pariſh or chapelry to elect the other by ballot; which officers ſhall ſerve, during their good behaviour, for three or four years *; and that only one ſhall be changed at once: and after the firſt change, a new one to be elected annually. And that the pariſh ſhall likewiſe elect by ballot, four, three, or two, ſubſtantial houſekeepers, according to the ſize of the pariſh (and in caſe of very large pariſhes, they may elect eight or nine), as overſeers of the poor, for three or four years; and only one or two in large pariſhes, &c. ſhall be changed annually, or every two years according to circumſtances; and that in caſe either of the church-wardens or overſeers (whoſe turn it is to go out) conſent, they may be rechoſen. That theſe guardians of the poor ſhall be obliged (under a penalty) to keep their books after a certain form. That there ſhall be one book for the names and deſignations of the pariſhioners aſſeſſed for the poor, with the ſeveral ſums affixed to their names; and likewiſe a liſt of thoſe who are exempted from the aſſeſſment, and the reaſons for their exemption.

That they ſhall have another book of a given form for the liſt of the poor maintained or aſſiſted by the pariſh, with their characters, and reaſons for the aſſiſtance given; and likewiſe the amount of their earnings by day labour or otherwiſe, the name and age of the wife, with the names and age of their children: and a third book, keeping an account of the money given to each pauper weekly or monthly, and marking the ſum that each has received in the year. That the guardians ſhall make up a liſt of the poor quarterly or half yearly, and lay it before a committee of the whole pariſh;

* If it is not too great a deviation of the preſent law, it would ſurely be better to have the appointments of overſeers on Epiphany inſtead of Eaſter; as a moveable feaſt makes irregular years, and muſt cauſe a needleſs variation in the accounts.

which ſhall be called *a Select Veſtry*, and ſhall be choſen by ballot; and that the proprietors of land, to the extent of L.200 per annum, or upwards, ſhall of courſe be of this ſelect veſtry, over and above thoſe to be choſen by ballot; which number ſhall be fixed according to the ſize of the pariſh: and this veſtry, together with the guardians of the poor, ſhall aſſeſs for the poor-rates, &c. A certain proportion of the committee ſhall be a quorum; and in caſe there ſhould not at any time be a ſufficient number, a fine of —— per head to be paid by the whole abſent members of the committee for the uſe of the poor. In caſe of ſickneſs or accident, the guardians of the poor ſhall have power to give temporary aſſiſtance, but not more than one half of the loweſt day-wages, except in caſes of a fractured limb, &c. in which caſe a certain ſum muſt be ſettled by the veſtry at their meetings, according to a fixed proportion of a labourer's wages. The guardians to meet once a month, on a Sunday after divine ſervice in the forenoon, and the veſtry to meet on the firſt Mondays of January, April, July, and October, and adjourn themſelves from time to time as they ſhall ſee cauſe; and an extra meeting of the veſtry may be called at any time by the guardians of the poor for any particular purpoſe, giving two days notice by letters, and by an advertiſement on the church-doors.

That the veſtry ſhall not have power to give above two-thirds of the common labourer's day's wages, except in caſe of fractures, &c. That in caſe a pauper applies to the guardians of the poor or veſtry, and is refuſed relief, he may, if he thinks proper, make application to a juſtice of peace, who ſhall appoint a meeting of the veſtry to attend at the common place of meeting, where the juſtice ſhall attend, and examine into the complaint of the pauper, and the reaſons of the guardians of the poor or the veſtry's refuſal; and that the examination ſhall be taken in writing, and recorded in the pariſh books: the juſtice, if he ſees cauſe, may order relief to the pauper, but not above two-thirds of the loweſt day-wages, except in caſes of fracture, &c.; and then the relief ſhall not exceed the ſum fixed by the veſtry for ſuch caſes: And in caſe the juſtice finds the complaint of the pauper frivolous or vexatious, he may commit him for two days to ſolitary confinement, and to be fed on bread and water. An appeal to lie to the quarter ſeſſions.

The veſtry muſt be empowered to employ and pay a clerk for themſelves and guardians of the poor, who ſhall be choſe by ballot, by the miniſter, church-wardens, overſeers, and ſelect veſtry; and the ſalary to be a fixed ſum, and the expence to be a county expence, and therefore fixed by the county; but ſhall not be under nor exceed a certain ſum even for the largeſt pariſh. The ſeveral clerks to be obliged (under a penalty) to tranſmit copies of their liſts and accounts quarterly to the treaſurer of the county, according to a fixed form; and the treaſurer ſhall be obliged to make out annual abſtracts of them, and lay them before a ſpecial ſeſſion, to be

called

called on purpoſe within two months after Epiphany; which meeting ſhall be properly notified by the clerk of the peace to every juſtice, and the treaſurer to inform the clerk when he can be prepared for it; but it muſt be within the two months, ſo that the juſtices may have a week's notice. This ſpecial ſeſſion ſhall examine the liſts and accounts of the ſeveral pariſhes, and ſhall take notice whether they are made according to the preſcribed forms, and ſhall impoſe the fines on thoſe who, through negligence or otherwiſe, have varied them; and ſhall order the abſtracts of the ſeveral pariſhes to be printed, and copies ſent to the different pariſhes, in order to have them diſperſed among the pariſhioners; any one of whom ſhall have power to examine at any time the pariſh-books on paying ſixpence to the clerk; and may have a copy of the ſeveral liſts on paying one ſhilling for every twenty-four names.

The expence of the county treaſurer and his clerks employed for this purpoſe, together with the printing the ſeveral liſts and abſtracts, to be paid out of the county expence. The county treaſurer to be obliged to tranſmit the ſeveral abſtracts (according to a given form) to ſome perſons appointed, in the ſame manner as the perſon is for aſcertaining the price of grain; and he is to enter the ſeveral abſtracts in a book, and publiſh a general abſtract of the whole annually in the Gazette.

5. That the juſtices at their quarter-ſeſſions ſhall, on application from the ſeveral veſtries, or otherwiſe if they ſee cauſe, appoint proper people to be pariſh-keepers, who ſhall act as conſtables, and receive a ſalary, not exceeding the ſum of —— for apprehending vagrants, beggars, &c. and take them before a neighbouring juſtice of the peace for examination, who may commit them to the neareſt diſtrict-priſon, or any other as he ſhall ſee cauſe, for one, two, or three days, but not more than a week: to be there maintained on one pound and an half of bread * per day, and with a ſufficient quantity of good clean water. The quarter-ſeſſions to nominate and appoint gaolers for the gaols of the ſeveral diſtricts, and the ſalaries ſhall be a county expence.

6. That *ſettlement* † ſhall be the place of birth, or gained by marriage, or ſerving an apprenticeſhip, or by a reſidence of five years.

7. That the veſtry may, in caſe of idle and diſſolute people having families, make application to a juſtice of peace for leave to take the children from their ſaid parents, and that the juſtices may ſtop a certain proportion of the day's wages of the father in the hands of his employer, towards the main-

* Made of the flour and bran all mixed together.

† Vide Dr Burn's Hiſtory of the Poor Laws, page 235. *where he ſeems to think, that it would aboliſh* CERTIFICATES; *but if upon trial it ſhould be found not to have that effect,* "*let* "*two juſtices of the peace, upon an application by any perſon to whom a* certificate *was refuſed,* "*be impowered to ſummon pariſh officers; and upon hearing both parties, to order ſuch* certificates "*to be granted or not as they ſaw moſt convenient,*" *as propoſed by the Rev. Mr Zouch in his pamphlet, publiſhed at Leeds* 1776, *page* 11.

maintenance of the ſaid children; and that the pariſh may board them with ſame ſober induſtrious family even out of the county, providing it is not above a certain diſtance from the pariſh. For ſurely ſuch induſtrious families of labourers or others are to be found, who would take them at a moderate allowance, and teach them frugal habits. This would anſwer better than congregating numbers in workhouſes or hoſpitals: "For there they ſee "no want, nor the ſolicitous care there is in poor induſtrious families "to provide their ſcanty allowance from day to day; their proviſions "are all ſet down before them ready dreſſed; they hear of no difficulties "to procure it: The work they do is by way of ſtint; for they have "either a taſk or work ſo many hours; when that is done, they "think no further of it, nor how they are to contribute towards earning "their next meal: They are totally ignorant of every domeſtic buſineſs; "whereas in the pooreſt of houſes, they are obliged, from their earlieſt in-"fancy, to ſet their hands to every thing they can poſſibly do, and never "know an end to their work, till night calls them to their neceſſary reſt: "for the boys riſe and go out to work with their fathers as ſoon as they "can do the leaſt thing; and by that means become handy at country "work, and inured to all weathers; which is the conſtant ruin of every "workhouſe-boy, who, by being confined in the houſe, and not ſo much "expoſed to the inclemencies of the air, is hardly if ever brought to bear it "well; and from the non-uſe of country buſineſs from his infancy, is ſel-"dom handy or clever like thoſe bred to it from their infancy. And as "to the girls, they alſo are taken in to be always doing ſomething with "their mothers; and though the loweſt ſort do not make the beſt of ſer-"vants, they are ſtill good drudges in farm-houſes, and always preferable "to the workhouſe girls in the country, whatever they may be in manu-"facturing towns *."

All this would take trouble and expence it is true; but without this, and more, the evil will continue to encreaſe; and if the poor rates have encreaſed half a million per annum in the ſpace of ten years, it is ſurely worth every ones while to undergo ſome trouble, and riſk even a large expence, eſpecially when the ſpirit of the preſent laws are kept up in hopes of correcting ſo alarming an evil.

When laws are long eſtabliſhed, though they ſhould be oppreſſive on a particular claſs of people, yet in time they become reconciled to the burden; and a ſudden and great alteration of ſuch laws, which muſt materially affect the intereſt of other claſſes, would create a grievous clamour, in which even thoſe relieved of the burden might join.

It appears generous and humane to contribute liberally to the ſupport of the

* See a pamphlet, intitled, Thoughts on the preſent State of the Poor, by a Kentiſh man, p. 44. Publiſhed by Conant, Fleet-Street, 1776.

the poor; the inferior ſet of ſhopkeepers are benefited, and the rich are accuſtomed to it. If the poor were at once deprived of their uſual allowance, there would be a loud outcry of cruelty and injuſtice againſt thoſe, whoſe ſole object was to ſuppreſs that idleneſs and profligacy, which is more hurtful to the nation than the heavieſt tax impoſed on it. Therefore ſome alterations, in hopes of enforcing the good intentions of the old laws, and the rectifying the great perverſion of them, ſhould be firſt attempted; ſo that a gradual alteration could more eaſily introduce any better method that time and experience might ſuggeſt.

The boxes or friendly ſocieties are certainly very commendable, and ſhould be properly encouraged; but it is to be feared, that if the public was to interfere with the management of them, it would ſoon put an end to them.

It has been propoſed by the author of Real Grievances (publiſhed in 1772), to oblige every one to contribute ſome part of their income, and that ſuch a ſociety ſhould be under truſtees for the pariſh. It would be very happy if ſuch a ſcheme could be reduced to practice: the jealouſy of the common people would probably ſoon make them imagine that the funds were much larger than they could poſſibly be; and of courſe make them conclude that the money was embezzled.

Probably many of the ſchemes are fundamentally wrong; it would therefore be very deſirable to have ſchemes of one, two, or more claſſes, reviſed by able calculators, ſuch as Mr Baron Maſcres or Dr Price, and then publiſhed, and afterwards oblige (if poſſible) every individual to enter into ſome one claſs or another. And in order to make it palatable to all ranks, let the ſeveral claſſes nominate committees, to be choſe by ballot, as truſtees to manage the funds, and to judge of the propriety of giving their members aſſiſtance, as regulated by the tables, in caſe of ſickneſs or accident.

The ſeveral treaſurers of the different claſſes to be obliged to tranſmit their accounts for a reviſal of the treaſurer of the county, as well as the money; which the ſaid treaſurer ſhall be obliged to put into the ſtocks at the direction of a ſpecial ſeſſion at certain periods for that purpoſe.

It is to be wiſhed that there were parochial ſchools in every pariſh, where reading and writing ſhould be taught: indeed the latter is not abſolutely neceſſary, and the reading no further than to be properly taught, ſo that it may not be forgot when they come to labour *. It is to be imagined that no harm could accrue if the act of Parliament for divine worſhip was properly enforced; and why not add a clauſe to it, to oblige the children to be catechiſed at certain times, if not every Sunday. Let ſuch as are diſ-

ſenters

* It has been known that children have been taught to read by rote without learning to ſpell; the conſequence of which was, that a little diſuſe, after they began to labour, made them totally forget it.

ſenters bring certificates of their having attended divine worſhip, and that their children have been queſtioned by their teachers.

The common people have not the art of making wholeſome, ſubſtantial, palatable food with little meat and many vegetables, like ſome of their neighbours: it would be happy if any method could be fallen on to teach it them. It is likewiſe alleged, that fewer labourers now make their own bread than formerly; one reaſon for it is, that they find it difficult to get a buſhel of wheat ground: therefore the millers ſhould be obliged to grind it for them, or hand-mills ſhould be provided for the labourers in every pariſh. Formerly the induſtrious poor brewed for themſelves, now few or none do it; which ſends them to the alehouſe, and that often brings on many bad habits. In ſhort, it is to be wiſhed, that every method ſhould be uſed to encourage and promote the frugality and induſtry of the poor, and to give them every poſſible comfort when they endeavour to earn it; one means of which might perhaps be, by giving nothing to thoſe who do not earn all they can. St Paul's precept ſhould be ſtrictly adhered to:

This we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither ſhould he eat.

2d Theſſ. Chap. iii. ver. 10.

A SPECI-

A

SPECIMEN of BOOKS

FOR

ACCOUNTS of PARISH-POOR.

X

An Account of the Parochial Poor of the Parish of A, for the Year 1786.

NAMES.	Age.	Wives.	Ditto's age.	Number of children.	Total number in family.	Earnings. Heers of yarn.	Heers of wool.	Value.	Private charity. Pounds of meat.	Value at 1½ per pound.	Parochial weekly assistance.	Total subsistence.	Subsistence per head.	Subsistence per head, reckoning 2 children equal to 1 person.	OBSERVATIONS.
								d. 12ths		d. 12ths	d. 12ths	d. 12ths	d. 12ths	d. 12ths	
District A.															
1. Marjory Boyd,	40	-	-	-	1	-	-	3 0	-	3 0	4 6	10 6	10 6	—	*A coal-bearer, has three-pence per week from the master of the colliery.*
2. Alexander Bannerman,	48	1	-	5	7	-	-	36 0	8	10 0	9 0	55 0	7 10	12 2	*A labourer, weak and sickly, and not very industrious.*
Thomas 8 years,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	—	-	—	—	—	—	—	*A weakly child.*
Janet 6 years,															
William 4 years,															
Mary 2 years,															
Alex. on the breast.															
3. William Buchanan,	69	1	50	2	4	-	-	48 0	4	8 9	9 0	65 9	16 5	21 10	*Has always behaved well, and is industrious; his wife not very healthy.*
Sarah 4,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	—	-	—	—	—	—	—	*Blind.*
Wm. on the breast.															
4. Janet Cook,	61	-	-	-	1	-	-	1 6	2	2 6	6 0	10 6	10 6	—	*An old collier's widow; keeps children for her neighbours when at their work.*
5. John Greaves,	75	1	60	-	2	-	-	—	-	—	24 0	24 0	12 0	—	*An old labourer.*
6. Isabel M'Ewen,	40	-	-	2	3	18	-	12 0	-	—	9 0	27 0	9 0	13 6	
Isabel 11 years,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	—	-	—	—	—	—	—	*A sickly child, can never assist herself.*
Elizabeth 7,															
7. Margaret Morison,	60	-	-	-	1	-	-	—	8	10 0	3 0	13 0	13 0	—	*A collier's widow; has the meal from the proprietor of the coal-works; infirm and blind.*
8. Duncan M'Lean,	75	1	40	-	2	-	-	12 0	-	—	6 0	18 0	9 0	—	*An old man, makes brooms, and under pretence of selling them begs; his wife, a stout woman, works, but drinks, and is worthless.*
9. Widow Nicholson †,	45	-	-	3	4	-	-	—	-	—	48 0	48 0	12 0	19 0	
William 6 years,															
Sarah 3 years,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	—	-	—	—	—	—	—	*Very sickly.*
Job 2 years,															
10. Benjamin Smith †,	60	-	-	3	4	-	-	36 0	-	—	30 0	54 0	13 8	21 3	*A labourer; can do very little, and employed by a farmer by way of charity.*
Elizabeth 8 years,															
Joseph 6 years,															
Mary 3 years,															

† *N. B.* Nicholson and Smith are taken from the Birmingham list.

A PAY-POLL of the PARISH of A. They are paid once a fortnight.

NAMES.	Age.	Wives.	Ditto's age.	Number of children.	Number in family.	OBSERVATIONS.	Jan. 15th.	Jan. 29th.	Feb. 12th.	Feb. 26th.	March 12th.	March 26th.	April 2d.	April 16th.	April 30th.	May 14th.	May 28th.	June 11th.	June 25th.	July 2d.	July 16th.	July 30th.	August 13th.	August 27th.	Sept. 10th.	Sept. 24th.	October 8th.	October 22d.	Nov. 5th.	Nov. 19th.	December 3d.	December 17th.	December 31st.	Total expence per annum. L.	s.	d.
DISTRICT A.							d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.			
1. Marjory Boyd,	40	-	-	-	1	*a coal-bearer, has private charity,* - -	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	1	0	5
2. Alexander Bannerman,	48	1	-	5	7	*sickly, and not very industrious,* - - -	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	2	0	6
3. William Buchannan,	69	1	50	2	4	*well behaved; sickly wife and a blind girl,* -	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	2	0	6
4. Janet Cook,	61	-	-	-	1	*a collier's widow, has private charity; died in Aug.*	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	16	0
5. John Greaves,	75	1	60	-	2	*an old labourer; man dead, the woman continued at* 18d	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	4	0	11
6. Isabel M'Ewen,	40	-	-	2	3	*has a sick daughter, unable to do any thing,* -	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	2	0	6
7. Margaret Morison,	60	-	-	-	1	*has private charity,* - - - - -	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0	13	6
8. Duncan Morison,	75	1	40	-	2	*begs, the wife worthless,* - - - - -	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	1	7	0
9. Widow Nicholson,	45	-	-	3	4	*she can do nothing, as one child is very sickly,* -	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	84	10	16	0
10. Benjamin Smith,	60	-	-	3	4	*a labourer; works a little,* - -	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	9	5	0

N. B. By Mr Zouch's account of the Out-poor at Wakefield, 150 paupers receive about L.228. L. 1 : 10 : 4¾ per head.

FINIS